

conversation stops," she said. "Because of this, palliative care is drastically and disappointingly underutilized in our state."

The council would include members from fields that work closely with palliative care recipients, and would serve as an advisory council to the Department of Health," Rep. LaTourette said. "The bill also creates an education program to inform patients and medical providers about the care."

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) asked what the council's main objective would be.

The sponsor said education is important, because if people don't know about palliative care, they won't take advantage of it. The council would also be required to submit annual reports to the General Assembly.

HB 50 **EBT CARDS** (**Schaffer, T.**) To establish requirements for electronic benefit transfer cards issued under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 110 **HEALTH CARE IDENTIFICATION** (**Tavares, C.**) To require a health care professional to wear identification when providing care or treatment in the presence of a patient. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

The bill would require certain health care professionals to wear an identification card, badge or similar device, including a photograph, when providing care, sponsor **Sen. Charleta B. Tavares** (D-Columbus) said. The badge would be required to include the person's licensure status and staff position.

"Without this legislation it is all too easy for patients to confuse who is and is not a licensed health care professional," she said. "It is also very easy for unlicensed or unqualified individuals to administer care to unaware patients. The misrepresentation of the level of training held by health care professionals is dangerous and can result in the loss of a loved one's life."

The sponsor detailed the story of a patient in South Carolina who ultimately died from complications from a pain reliever after surgery and whose mother repeatedly asked for a veteran physician at the hospital to examine him, but was only met by residents.

"It is vital that health care professionals are required to wear identification of who they are and what their level of training is in order to insure the utmost level of transparency between patients and health professionals," she said.

Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) asked the sponsor if she has checked with hospitals to see if it is already in practice.

Sen. Tavares said she didn't know how common of a practice it is, particularly in smaller hospital systems and practices.

Sen. Edna Brown (D-Toledo) said many people wear badges backwards, and suggested that the requirement be that the name and status be visible.

That's the intent of the bill, Sen. Tavares said, but it could be made explicit in the bill.

SB 192 **AWARENESS WEEK** (**Tavares, C.**) To designate the last week of September as "Diaper Need Awareness Week." (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sen. Tavares said her bill would designate the final week of September as Diaper Need Awareness Week, focusing on the need by low-income families of diapers and to rally support for diaper bank programs.

"Children in low-income families are at the greatest risk of suffering the effects of diaper need because many families cannot afford diapers," she said. "Current public support programs help some, but young children have additional needs necessary to build a strong foundation for healthy growth. More awareness needs to be brought to such a critical but oftentimes overlooked necessity for Ohio families."

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families is the only federal program that can cover diapers, and families are often forced to choose between diapers and other services TANF covers, such as heat, electric, rent, clothing and transportation, Sen. Tavares said.

"This bill is simply meant to bring attention to this important need and to encourage those of us with a little extra to donate to the Diaper Banks in our communities or to start them," she said.

Insurance & Financial Institutions

HB 362 **HPRS RETIREMENT (Carfagna, R., Ramos, D.)** To revise the law governing the State Highway Patrol Retirement System. (**CONTINUED**; 2nd Hearing-All testimony)

Mark Atkeson, executive director of the Ohio Highway Patrol Retirement System, said the bill would help the pension fund ensure continued solvency.

The bill would return the minimum retirement age to 52 for new hires after Jan. 1, 2020, calculate pension benefits for off-duty disabilities based on a minimum 12-year service benefit instead of 20 years, and eliminate the automatic 50% unfunded survivor benefit, creating a set amount of \$900, increasing annually as the board determines.

The measure would also provide no survivor benefits for those who marry after retirement.

"These changes reduce the amortization period of our unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities by several years, and when these changes are fully realized, they will have a compounding cumulative effect on reducing our unfunded liabilities," he said. "In addition, these are considered best practices and are consistent with other similar systems."

Robert Booker, president of the Ohio Highway Patrol Retirees' Association, said the changes are needed to ensure the system's long-term health.

"Like with other pension systems, our system continues to face actuarial assumption changes that have not been seen before," he said. "Probably, the most significant change was the reduction of the investment assumed rate of return. These assumption changes increase the unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities of a pension system. The legislative changes the HPRS board has approved are necessary and will decrease the amortization period of the system's unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities by several years, thus improving its solvency."

In written testimony, HPRS Board member Matt Them voiced support for the proposal.

"I realize no one wants to see any change in benefits, myself included, but this legislation is in the best interest of the retirement system and its long-term solvency," he said. "Thus, in the long-run, a solvent and well-funded system will benefit all of us individually."

Chairman **Sen. Jay Hottinger** (R-Newark) said he hopes to vote the bill out of the committee next week.

SB 227 **HEALTH PLAN CLAIMS (Huffman, M.)** To require health plan issuers to release certain claim information to group plan policyholders. **(CONTINUED (See separate story); 3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)**

Government Oversight & Reform

SJR 5 **CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING (Huffman, M.)** To establish a process for congressional redistricting. **(CONTINUED (See separate story); 1st Hearing-All testimony)**

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Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Daily Activity Planner for Wednesday, January 24

Legislative Committees

House Health (Committee Record) (Chr. Huffman, S., 466-8114), Rm. 121, 9 a.m.

HB 191 **NURSE ANESTHETISTS** (Gonzales, A.) Regarding the practice of certified registered nurse anesthetists. (3rd Hearing-Proponent)

Senate Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Eklund, J., 644-7718), South Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

HB 24 **VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS** (Ginter, T.) To modify the existing tax exemption for veterans organizations' property to include property of certain veterans organizations exempt from federal taxation under section 501C(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and to exclude property that is not used primarily for meetings, administration, and the provision of programs and services to past and present members of the United States armed forces. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 292 **OHIO RESIDENCY** (Scherer, G.) To modify the test for determining an individual's state of residence for income tax purposes. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB 226 **TAX HOLIDAY** (Bacon, K.) To provide for a permanent three-day sales tax "holiday" each August during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use tax. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

Senate Government Oversight & Reform (Committee Record) (Chr. Coley, B., 466-8072), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:45 a.m.

SJR 5 **CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING** (Huffman, M.) To establish a process for congressional redistricting. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

House Insurance (Committee Record) (Chr. Brinkman, T., 644-6886), Rm. 116, 10 a.m.

- Presentation by Ohio State Highway Patrol Lt. Steven M. Click on the Ohio ASSIST (Aiding Safety Services with Incident Survival Techniques) Program

HB 459 **WORKERS' COMPENSATION** (Henne, M.) To allow groups of employers to be granted status as a self-insuring employer for purposes of the Workers' Compensation Law. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 416 **HEALTH SERVICE PRICES** (Huffman, S.) Regarding the provision of cost estimates for scheduled health care services and health care services requiring insurer preauthorization. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Transportation & Public Safety (Committee Record) (Chr. Green, D., 644-6034), Rm. 017, 10 a.m.

- HB 293** **DRIVER'S LICENSES** (Scherer, G., Sheehy, M.) To require a person to hold a temporary instruction permit for one year before obtaining a probationary driver's license and to alter the time periods during which the holder of a temporary instruction permit or probationary driver's license is prohibited from operating a motor vehicle without being accompanied by a parent or guardian. (3rd Hearing-Proponent & opponent-Possible substitute)
- HB 350** **ROAD NAMING** (Craig, H.) To designate a portion of State Route 317 in Franklin County as the "Patrolman Dane L. Rowe Memorial Highway." (1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HB 421** **VEHICLE TITLES** (Patterson, J., Becker, J.) To provide that when a certificate of title is issued for a motor vehicle, the owner may request that the certificate indicate that the motor vehicle is a replica vehicle. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HCR 20** **VEHICLE CRASHES** (Schaffer, T.) To urge Congress to encourage the Administrator of the FMCSA to change the crash indicator BASIC regulation standards to consider only crashes in which the driver was at fault for the crash. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 400** **BRIDGE NAMING** (Holmes, G.) To designate the bridge spanning Squaw Creek, that is part of State Route 169 in Trumbull County, as the "World War I and World War II Veterans Memorial Bridge." (1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HB 401** **BRIDGE NAMING** (Holmes, G.) To designate the bridge spanning Squaw Creek, that is part of United States Route 422 in Girard, as the "Purple Heart Veterans Memorial Bridge." (1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HB 388** **LICENSE PLATE** (Sykes, E., Roegner, K.) To create the "Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens" license plate. (1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

House Higher Education & Workforce Development (Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 115, 11 a.m.

- HB 58** **CURSIVE HANDWRITING** (Brenner, A., Slaby, M.) To require instruction in cursive handwriting. (6th Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 449** **SPONSOR RATINGS** (Rogers, J., Patterson, J.) To require the Department of Education to attribute any community school sponsor ratings an entity received during its relationship with a state university board of trustees to that entity even if it no longer has a relationship with the university. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

House Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3506), Rm. 119, 12:15 p.m.

House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

House Civil Justice (Committee Record) (Chr. Butler, J., 644-6008), Rm. 121, 2:30 p.m.

HB 407 **ESTATE LAW** (Dever, J., Seitz, B.) To abolish the estate by dower. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 446 **POWER OF ATTORNEY** (Rogers, J., Seitz, B.) Relative to the acceptance of an acknowledged power of attorney. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security (Committee Record) (**Chr. Johnson, T.**, 466-2124), Rm. 116, 2:30 p.m. or after session

HR 318 **ARMED FORCES** (Dever, J.) To urge the President and Congress of the United States, and the Secretary of Defense, to authorize the recruitment of individuals with disabilities for service in the Armed Forces of the United States. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 434 **LICENSE PLATES** (Sweeney, M., Perales, R.) To create the "Army Distinguished Service Cross," the "Navy Cross," the "Air Force Cross," and the "Coast Guard Cross" license plates. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Government Accountability & Oversight (Committee Record) (**Chr. Blessing, L.**, 466-9091), Rm. 313, 2:30 p.m. or after session

- **2nd Hearing-Proponent testimony on bill from Rep. Schuring on redistricting**

HB 87 **COMMUNITY SCHOOLS** (Roegner, K.) Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 478 **WIRELESS SERVICES** (Smith, R., LaTourette, S.) To modify the law regarding wireless service and the placement of small cell wireless facilities in the public way. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 382 **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION** (Schuring, K.) To modify terms describing payments made under the Unemployment Compensation Law, to increase the amount of wages subject to unemployment compensation premiums, to require qualifying employees to make payments to the Unemployment Compensation Insurance Fund, to allow the Director of Job and Family Services to adjust maximum weekly benefit amounts, to reduce the maximum number of benefit weeks, and to make other changes to the Unemployment Compensation Law. (10th Hearing-All testimony)

HJR 4 **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION** (Schuring, K.) Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to allow the General Assembly to provide by law for the issuance of bonds to pay unemployment compensation benefits when the fund created for that purpose is or will be depleted or to repay outstanding advances made by the federal government to the unemployment compensation program. (10th Hearing-All testimony)

HB 462 **HOSPITAL CLOSINGS** (Schuring, K., West, T.) To require that a for-profit hospital and its affiliated health care facilities in certain counties follow specified procedures before ceasing operations or closing, and to declare an emergency. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

- HB 301** **CONSENT DECREES** (Butler, J.) To require the approval of the General Assembly for a state agency to agree to a consent decree or court-approved settlement agreement that would alter or prohibit the enforcement of a law of this state. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 223** **USED TIRES** (LaRose, F.) To prohibit the installation of unsafe used tires on certain motor vehicles. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 127** **WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLES** (LaRose, F.) To require motor vehicle operators to take certain actions upon approaching a stationary waste collection vehicle collecting refuse on a roadside. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- House Community & Family Advancement** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Ginter, T., 466-8022**), Rm. 114, 3 p.m. or after session
- HB 427** **SUBSTANCE ABUSE** (Young, R.) To require the Department of Health to publish monthly drug overdose death information for each county, to create grant programs to support faith-based substance abuse services, to authorize an income tax deduction for physicians providing such services for free, and to allocate funds and make an appropriation for the grant programs. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible substitute)
- HB 366** **CHILD SUPPORT** (Gavarone, T.) To make changes to the laws governing child support. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- House Federalism & Interstate Relations** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Roegner, K., 466-1177**), Rm. 115, 3:30 p.m. or after session
- HB 253** **CONCEALED WEAPONS** (Householder, L., Lanese, L.) To permit law enforcement officers to carry firearms off duty in places otherwise prohibited for concealed handgun licensees. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)
- House State & Local Government** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Anielski, M., 644-6041**), Rm. 017, 3:30 p.m. or after session
- HB 415** **ROAD IMPROVEMENTS** (Greenspan, D., Ryan, S.) To allocate one-half of any surplus revenue to a new Local Government Road Improvement Fund, from which money will be distributed directly to local governments to fund road improvements. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)
- HB 169** **HEALTH INSURANCE** (Merrin, D.) To require, with respect to insurance contracted for or provided by the Department of Administrative Services, an individual who is not covered by a collective bargaining agreement to pay the same percentage of the premium for vision, dental, or life insurance as the individual pays for health insurance. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 298** **SICK DAYS** (Merrin, D.) To make changes with respect to the number of sick days provided to public employees. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 314** **SAFETY TAX CREDIT** (Schaffer, T.) To allow an income tax credit for law enforcement officials who purchase safety or protective items to be used in the course of official law enforcement activities. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

- HB 453** **CHARTER HOSPITALS (Greenspan, D.)** To require that all rights and interests in discoveries, inventions, or patents made by employees using charter county hospital facilities are the property of that charter county hospital. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 454** **CEMETERY LOTS (Patterson, J., Arndt, S.)** To require a township to compensate the owner of certain unused cemetery lots and rights which the township reenters after lack of response from the owner. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HR 299** **DRUG USE (Young, R., Ginter, T.)** To recognize the efforts and successes of the faith-based community in supporting and assisting individuals who are suffering from opioid and other drug abuse and addiction. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SCR 15** **YEAR DESIGNATION (O'Brien, S., Wilson, S.)** To designate 2018 as 'Ohio's Year of the Trails.' (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Agency Calendar

Arts Council, 33rd Fl., 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, 10 a.m. (The Finance Committee meets previously at 9:30 a.m. and the Executive Committee meets at noon or immediately following the board meeting.)

Board of Building Appeals, Division of Industrial Compliance, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 1:30 p.m.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Ohio Oil and Gas Association and Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund news conference call on orphan well legislation, 9:30 a.m.

Managed Long-Term Services and Supports Study Committee, Rm. 1960, 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Rep. Scott Lipps (R-Franklin) and Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton) and Ohio Pharmacists' Association news conference on prescription drug legislation, Press Briefing Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 11:30 a.m.

Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) & Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) fundraiser, Athletic Club, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$5,000, Sponsor: \$2,500, Host: \$1,000, Guest: \$500 to Friends of Ryan Smith and Friends of Dave Greenspan RSVP required to Taylor at 740.395.7656 or Taylor@smithforohio.com)

Rep. Janine Boyd (D-Cleveland Hts.) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Janine Boyd. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-427-9895 or jgravalis@ohiodems.org)

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From: report@hannah.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2018 8:29 PM
To: DL_Hannah
Subject: Hannah News Stories for Tuesday, January 23, 2018

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:

Please click here to read the entire Hannah Report.

Today's Stories

- [GOP, Dems Pursue Redistricting Deal; Critics Blast SJR5 in Hearing](#)
- [ECOT Appeals Shutdown; Hearing Officer Backs ODE Again; Legislators Criticize Agency](#)
- [Lawmakers Aim to Place 'Right-to-Work' Measures on 2020 Ballot](#)
- [OCC, OSU Economist Slam Electric Security Plans, Praise HB247](#)
- [Witnesses Tell Committee Bail Reform Is Needed](#)
- [Portman Addresses Reopening of Government, Reauthorization of CHIP, Imposition of Tariffs](#)
- [Trooper's Search of Detained Suspect's Purse Unconstitutional](#)
- [State Government Roundup: Cold Case](#)
- [Campaign Corner: 90th House District](#)
- [Judicial Actions: Opinion](#)
- [Executive Actions: Appointments](#)
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- [Health, Human Services and Medicaid](#)

- Insurance and Financial Institutions

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From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 8:52 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 1/24/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

1/24/2018



STATE MIGHT SEEK \$19M MORE BACK FROM CLOSED CHARTER E-SCHOOL

The giant Ohio online charter school that abruptly closed mid-school-year lost another round of its multifaceted battle with the state over funding but said Tuesday that it's still fighting to reopen, even as many of its 12,000 students are looking for new schools.

LAWYERS: JURIES, NOT JUDGES, SHOULD IMPOSE DEATH SENTENCES

Ohio's capital punishment law is unconstitutional because judges, not juries, impose death sentences in contrast to the 6th Amendment right to a jury trial, lawyers for a convicted killer argued before the state Supreme Court on Tuesday.



DEMOCRATS TUSSLE OVER ECOT CAMPAIGN MONEY, BUT GOP GOT FAR MORE

As Ohio's big bet on a big online charter school fizzles, candidates are pointing fingers over the \$2.1 million in campaign money the school's operator has doled out during the past two decades.

COLUMBUS LAWMAKER'S PROPOSAL WOULD ALLOW PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE IN OHIO

Lisa Vigil Schattinger wants terminally ill Ohioans to have the option chosen by her stepfather, who said his piece and then made peace with impending death from bone marrow cancer.

GOP LAWMAKERS, CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE, DEFEND ECOT; STATE SAYS SCHOOL PRIORITIZED PROFIT

Arguing that that Gov. John Kasich and the Ohio Department of Education should have kept ECOT open through the end of the school year, a handful of Republican lawmakers Tuesday defended the school and urged changes to stop a future shutdown in the middle of the school year.

RIGHT-TO-WORK WOULD HELP OHIO WORKERS, GOP LAWMAKERS SAY

A pair of Republican lawmakers said their proposal to put six right-to-work amendments on the 2020 ballot would help Ohio workers.

LAWMAKERS TAKE BABY STEPS TOWARD REDISTRICTING COMPROMISE

A whiff of progress on congressional redistricting could be permeating the Statehouse.

O'NEILL TELLS DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO VET HIM AFTER PAYING OFF TAX LIENS

Gubernatorial candidate William M. O'Neill is asking the Ohio Democratic Party to vet him after paying \$4,361 in past-due state income taxes.

ECOT APPEALS SPONSOR'S DECISION THAT SHUT SCHOOL

Shuttered online giant ECOT is not giving up efforts to keep the school open through the end of the school year.

EX-TIBERI AIDE TO JOIN DEWINE'S STAFF

Breann Gonzalez, a longtime aide to Rep. Pat Tiberi, R-Genoa Township, is joining the staff of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine.

EDITORIAL: OHIOANS WANT REAL REDISTRICTING REFORM

Ohio House Republicans' proposed congressional boundary-drawing "reform" is a cynical exercise in damage control.

Dayton Daily News

www.daytondailynews.com

MIAMI TWP. TRUSTEE: STATE WAGE LAW 'DISCRIMINATORY,' WASTING MILLIONS

A Miami Twp. trustee is asking the state to pay for the costs of what he called an unfunded mandate that is "most discriminatory" and that he said wastes millions of dollars across Ohio.

DOCTOR-ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL COMING TO OHIO STATEHOUSE

Nearly three decades after Jack "Dr. Death" Kevorkian pushed doctor-assisted suicide into the national spotlight, state Sen. Charleta Tavares says it's time that Ohio legalize the practice with strict safeguards in place.

ECOT APPEALS IN FIGHT TO STAY OPEN; EMAILS SHOW STATE FIGHT

The Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow on Tuesday announced it is appealing the decision of its sponsor, the Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West, to close the embattled online school.

OHIO LOOKING TO CHANGE BAIL SYSTEM, FOCUSING LESS ON MONEY

The ACLU of Ohio says a plan to shift courts away from using cash-bail systems is a good start but doesn't go far enough to fix the broken system.

'ON ITS LAST LEGS': WHY ELECTION BOARDS ARE SEEKING NEW VOTING MACHINES

Voting equipment in many Ohio counties, including Butler County, is becoming obsolete as replacement parts are more difficult to obtain and software continues to age.

THE PLAIN DEALER

'RIGHT TO WORK' COULD BE ON THE BALLOT IN OHIO WITH SUPPORT FROM LAWMAKERS

Supporters of "right to work" legislation are taking a different route to enact changes critics say would unnecessarily weaken unions in Ohio.

SHOULD ECOT FOUNDER PAY MONEY BACK FASTER? STATE AUDITOR DAVE YOST SAYS YES WHILE SCHOOL FLOATS NEW PLAN

ECOT founder William Lager and two companies he owns have paid more than \$5 million back toward the \$80 million enrollment and state aid fight the online charter school is having with the state.

OHIO AMONG NORTHERN STATES TO LOSE ANOTHER U.S. HOUSE SEAT AFTER NEXT CENSUS - OUT OF LINE: IMPACT 2017 AND BEYOND

Ohio is on target to lose another congressional seat after the 2020 census, making it even more important that the state gets it right in deciding how to reform the way its congressional districts are drawn.

THE ENQUIRER

IN OHIO, NO ONE WANTS GOV. JOHN KASICH'S ENDORSEMENT - INCLUDING HIS FORMER RUNNING MATE WHO HAS IT

In the Republican primary for Ohio governor, no one apparently wants Gov. John Kasich's endorsement - including the candidate who has it.

THE BLADE

One of America's Great Newspapers

LAWMAKERS ARGUE ECOT CLOSING PREVENTABLE

The Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West board voted Tuesday night to accept a court-supervised master to oversee the winding down of the defunct Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow.

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2018 8:54 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 1/25/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

1/25/2018



OHIO PART OF STUDY TO REDUCE CHILD WELFARE WORKERS TURNOVER

Officials say Ohio is joining a national research project to reduce turnover among caseworkers in the child welfare field.



KASICH DISPUTES TAYLOR'S ASSERTION THEY HAVEN'T TALKED IN A YEAR

The office of Ohio Gov. John Kasich, and her own appointment calendar, dispute Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor's assertion that she has not talked to the governor in more than a year.

OHIO LAWMAKERS GOING AFTER PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS

When Ohioans go to pharmacists for their prescriptions, they generally assume they'll be told the truth about the costs of their medicines.

NO REDISTRICTING VOTE WITHOUT CITIZENS COALITION SUPPORT, SENATE PRESIDENT SAYS

Unless a citizens coalition agrees with a legislative plan to revamp Ohio's congressional redistricting process, Senate President Larry Obhof said the Senate won't vote on the measure.

CLINTONVILLE ARCHITECT BECOMES LATEST TO RUN FOR TIBERI'S OLD SEAT

Yet another Republican has entered the race to replace Rep. Pat Tiberi.

CORDRAY WANTS TO BRING FIGHT FOR CONSUMERS TO OHIO

Richard Cordray just finished a five-year stint running the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, but on Wednesday he said he is starting his fight for consumers in Ohio.

STATE LAWMAKERS VOTE TO REGULATE 'E-BIKES'

Ohio is one of just 20 states that doesn't regulate electric bicycles, but that might be changing with new legislation.

Dayton Daily News
www.daytondailynews.com

NEW BILL CALLS FOR MORE TRANSPARENCY IN DRUG PRICES

A consumer protection bill introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives this week aims to increase transparency in prescription drug pricing.

RIDING A SKATEBOARD WHILE HOLDING A CAR COULD BECOME ILLEGAL IN OHIO

Grabbing the bumper or side of a moving car and hitching a ride while on a skateboard is not specifically illegal in Ohio — something some state lawmakers want to change.

TOOL WILL ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO FOLLOW THE MONEY IN OHIO POLITICS

If you want to know what's going on in politics, the old adage is: follow the money.

THE PLAIN DEALER

ECOT STUDENTS RUSHING TO OTHER E-SCHOOLS BUT TRICKLING BACK TO DISTRICTS

Students from the just-closed ECOT online charter school have started to land in school districts and other charters, but the numbers remain low and it's too early to tell how well the process is working.

OHIO PAC SUPPORTING OHIO WOMEN CANDIDATES RAISES \$750,000

The Matriots, a statewide PAC supporting female candidates, started last year when a small group of Columbus-area neighbors, friends and acquaintances stood together at the Women's March on Washington and felt something big.

TALK IT OUT: SHOULD OHIO BECOME A 'RIGHT TO WORK' STATE?

Republican state Reps. John Becker and Craig Riedel have proposed a package of six constitutional amendments targeting how unions operate and are funded in Ohio.

THE BLADE One of America's Great Newspapers

VOTE DELAYED ON GOP REMAP PLAN

Senate Republicans on Wednesday delayed a vote on changes to the inherently political process by which Ohio redraws congressional districts.

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2018 8:55 AM
To: DL_Gongwer
Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Thursday, January 25

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NEWS

Ohio Supreme Court sides with FirstEnergy in customer refund ruling
(Akron Beacon Journal, 1/25/2018)

GOP gov race: No one wants Kasich's endorsement (Cincinnati Enquirer,
1/25/2018)

= A

In Ohio, lives altered a year into Trump (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/25/2018)

Ohio PAC supporting Ohio women candidates raises \$750,000 (Cleveland
Plain Dealer, 1/25/2018)

Powerful opioids are easily sold through the Internet and shipped in the mail, investigation finds (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/25/2018)

Talk it out: Should Ohio become a 'right to work' state? (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/25/2018)

Campaign cash: Who got how much from ECOT (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

Cordray wants to bring fight for consumers to Ohio (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

Kasich disputes Taylor's assertion they haven't talked in a year (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

No redistricting vote without citizens coalition support, Senate president says (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

Ohio lawmakers going after pharmacy benefit managers (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

State lawmakers vote to regulate "e-bikes" (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

Ohio's tobacco prevention efforts get mostly Fs (Dayton Daily News, 1/25/2018)

Riding a skateboard while holding a car could become illegal in Ohio (Dayton Daily News, 1/25/2018)

State considers punishing cities that use traffic, red-light cameras (Dayton Daily News, 1/25/2018)

Tool will allow the public to follow the money in Ohio politics (Dayton Daily News, 1/25/2018)

High court: State's FirstEnergy refund order was improper (Toledo Blade, 1/25/2018)

Vote delayed on GOP remap plan (Toledo Blade, 1/25/2018)

EDITORIALS

Editorial: CHIP breaks free from D.C. gridlock (Canton Repository, 1/25/2018)

Editorial: Ohioans want real redistricting reform (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

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From: Paretto, Dominic
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 5:01 PM
To: House_All
Subject: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave



MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of family and medical leave benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption, or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a

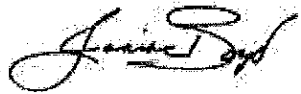
claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

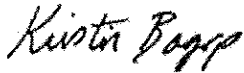
An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**



Janine Boyd
State Representative, Ohio House District 09



Kristin Boggs
State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: report@hannah.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 8:47 PM
To: DL_Hannah
Subject: Hannah News Stories for Tuesday, February 13, 2018

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:

Please click here to read the entire Hannah Report.

Today's Stories

- [Pillich Expected to End Gubernatorial Campaign Wednesday](#)
- [Chief Justice Suggests ECOT's Enrollment-Minus-Participation Argument Leads to 'Absurd Result'](#)
- [ProMedica Signs Transfer Agreement with Toledo Abortion Clinic](#)
- [CSRAB Unveils Painting of Lincoln Addressing General Assembly](#)
- [Liberal Groups Slam 'Right-to-Work' Proposals, Offer Policy Alternatives](#)
- ['Sexting' Ban Gets First Hearing](#)
- [Legislation Conforming Ohio Law to New Federal Tax Law Begins Hearings in House](#)
- [HB228 Draws Wide Range of Testimony on Gun, Self-Defense Issues](#)
- [School Board Talks Graduation, ECOT Response, Machine Scoring of Tests](#)
- [AEP Draws Vocal Support for Clean Energy Plan in First Public Hearing on ESP](#)
- [Hambley, Sweeney Introduce 'Ohio Proud Craft Beer Act'](#)
- [AG Warns of Romance Scams](#)
- [People in the News: Cole; Bowen](#)
- [Judicial Actions: Opinion](#)
- [Executive Action: Appointment](#)

House Committee Reports

- [Criminal Justice](#)
- [Economic Development, Commerce and Labor](#)
- [Education and Career Readiness](#)
- [Energy and Natural Resources](#)
- [Federalism and Interstate Relations](#)
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- [Rules and Reference](#)
- [Ways and Means](#)

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Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Wednesday, February 14

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NEWS

Akron prepares for a possible loss in court against the state (Akron Beacon Journal, 2/14/2018)

Ohio Supreme Court hears arguments in online charter school case (Associated Press, 2/14/2018)

Report: Fertilizer, manure top Lake Erie phosphorus sources (Associated Press, 2/14/2018)

Source: Pillich to leave governor's race, back Cordray (Associated Press, 2/14/2018)

Portman 'shocked' ex-aide accused of abuse (Cincinnati Enquirer, 2/14/2018)

Sole female Dem in gubernatorial race to quit (Cincinnati Enquirer, 2/14/2018)

Connie Pillich expected to drop out of the governor's race (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2018)

Lawmakers must rewrite Ohio bill to reflect new federal tax rules (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2018)

Ohio's charter school quality crackdown claims a big-city victim - the Cincinnati school district (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2018)

Skill games to be regulated by Ohio Casino Control Commission (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2018)

Chief justice to ECOT attorney: 'How is that not absurd?' (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)

Kasich chosen to address graduates of Kennedy School in May (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)

New report from pro-labor group pans right-to-work proposals (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)

Ohio wants to require those on Medicaid to get a job (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)

Pillich to leave race for governor, back Cordray (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)

Podcast: A discussion with gubernatorial candidate William O'Neill (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)

Portman shocked at allegations of abuse by former aide (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)

President Trump jokes with Sherrod Brown on DACA (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)

Ohio considers raising child marriage age after DDN investigation (Dayton Daily News, 2/14/2018)

Portman's vetting of staffer didn't turn up complaints of wife abuse (Dayton Daily News, 2/14/2018)

Vicious dogs: Ohio moves to change laws on dog owners (Dayton Daily News, 2/14/2018)

ECOT asks high court to restore its funding (Toledo Blade, 2/14/2018)

Toledo's only abortion clinic now in time race to get transfer agreement signed (Toledo Blade, 2/14/2018)

EDITORIALS

Unconscionable failure by Ohio Justices O'Donnell, DeWine to recuse in ECOT case after taking thousands in campaign dollars: editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2018)

Great Lakes once again in budget crosshairs (Toledo Blade, 2/14/2018)

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From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 8:54 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 2/14/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

2/14/2018



HOSPITAL PACT MIGHT SAVE TOLEDO ABORTION CLINIC

A hospital system has authorized a patient-transfer agreement to keep the last abortion clinic in Toledo operating.



PILLICH TO LEAVE RACE FOR GOVERNOR, BACK CORDRAY

Only one of the original Democrats running for governor will still be in the race after Wednesday.

OHIO WANTS TO REQUIRE THOSE ON MEDICAID TO GET A JOB

Thousands of Ohioans soon might need to find a job or lose their Medicaid health insurance.

KASICH CHOSEN TO ADDRESS GRADUATES OF KENNEDY SCHOOL IN MAY

Gov. Kasich will address the 2018 graduates of the Harvard Kennedy School in May, the dean of the school said Tuesday.

CHIEF JUSTICE ON ECOT CLAIM FOR STATE MONEY: 'HOW IS THAT NOT ABSURD?'

As ECOT attorney Marion Little finished his arguments for why, under the law, the online school should get full funding for students even if they only log in once a month and do no work, Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor interjected.

KASICH POSTPONES FOREIGN TRIP TO ATTEND OFFICERS' FUNERAL IN WESTERVILLE

Long-time Westerville resident Gov. John Kasich is postponing a foreign trade trip to attend the Friday funeral of two police officers slain in his hometown on Saturday.

A FIFTH OF OHIO HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS NEED HELP TO EARN A DIPLOMA THIS YEAR

Less than five months from graduation, one out of five Ohio high school seniors still wouldn't qualify for a diploma under more-stringent state standards — requirements that at least temporarily have been softened to avert just such a crisis.

NEW REPORT FROM PRO-LABOR GROUP PANS RIGHT-TO-WORK PROPOSALS

In the wake of proposed right-to-work amendments by Republican lawmakers, a newly released report is recommending politicians can support Ohio workers by backing off of regulating unions.

Dayton Daily News

www.daytondailynews.com

OHIO CONSIDERS RAISING CHILD MARRIAGE AGE AFTER DDN INVESTIGATION

An investigation by the Dayton Daily News into child marriage is prompting state lawmakers to introduce a bill that would bump up the legal marriage age to 18 for both males and females and allow 17-year-olds to marry with court approval.

VICIOUS DOGS: OHIO MOVES TO CHANGE LAWS ON DOG OWNERS

Four years after the gruesome attack that killed Dayton resident Klonda Richey, state lawmakers are taking a double barrel approach to finally putting more teeth in the state's vicious dog laws.

CINCINNATI DEMOCRAT CONNIE PILLICH EXPECTED TO LEAVE GOVERNOR'S RACE

Former state representative Connie Pillich — the last woman leading a Democratic ticket for governor — is expected to drop out of the race and endorse former attorney general Rich Cordray on Wednesday, sources close to the campaign said.

THE PLAIN DEALER

OHIO'S CHARTER SCHOOL QUALITY CRACKDOWN CLAIMS A BIG-CITY VICTIM - THE CINCINNATI SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ohio's push to improve charter school quality has booted a major city school district - the Cincinnati Public Schools - out of the charter school business.

CONNIE PILLICH EXPECTED TO DROP OUT OF THE GOVERNOR'S RACE

Connie Pillich, the lone remaining Democratic woman running for governor in what was supposed to be the "year of the woman," will drop out of the race Wednesday to endorse Richard Cordray, according to two Democratic sources.

ECOT FUNDING QUESTIONED BY OHIO SUPREME COURT JUSTICES: "HOW IS IT NOT ABSURD?"

Ohio Supreme Court justices were wary this morning of how the ECOT online charter school wants to be funded as the school and Ohio Department of Education pleaded their cases to the court.

**UNCONSCIONABLE FAILURE BY OHIO JUSTICES O'DONNELL, DeWINE TO
RECUSE IN ECOT CASE AFTER TAKING THOUSANDS IN CAMPAIGN DOLLARS:**

EDITORIAL

The seven-member Ohio Supreme Court is hearing arguments this morning in a case whose outcome may kill or revive the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow, or ECOT, the online charter school that shut down last month.

THE ENQUIRER

**CONNIE PILLICH TO END GUBERNATORIAL BID; ENDORSE CORDRAY. WAS THE
LONE FEMALE DEMOCRAT IN THE RACE**

In the so-called "year of the woman," the sole female in the Democratic race for governor will bow out to endorse former Consumer Financial Protection Bureau director Richard Cordray.

DEMOCRAT KATHY WYENANDT FILES TO RUN IN OHIO 52ND DISTRICT

Democrat Kathy Wyenandt is challenging Republican George Lang for his Ohio House seat.

THE BLADE

One of America's Great Newspapers

ECOT ASKS HIGH COURT TO RESTORE ITS FUNDING

Clinging to hope of reopening its virtual doors, what was once Ohio's largest online school on Tuesday urged the Ohio Supreme Court to halt state efforts to claw back tens of millions in past aid.

PILLICH TO DROP OHIO GOVERNOR BID

Another Democratic candidate for governor will drop out of the race Wednesday and throw her support to Richard Cordray for the party's nomination.

From: Rep88
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 5:16 PM
To: Reineke, Bill
CC: 'Bill Reineke'
Subject: FW: Agenda for tomorrow's School Funding Workgroup Meeting
Attachments: Agenda 2-15-2017.pdf; ATT00001.htm

See below/attached.

From: Barb Adams [mailto:badams@bettsassociates.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 5:05 PM
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Wells <awells@nwlsd.org>

Subject: Agenda for tomorrow's School Funding Workgroup Meeting

Attached is the agenda for tomorrow's Ohio House School Funding Workgroup Meeting at 10 am in Room 1948 in the Riffe Center.

OHIO HOUSE SCHOOL FUNDING WORKGROUP

February 15, 2018
10:00 a.m., Room 1948
Verne Riffe Center
77 S. High St., Columbus, OH 43215

- I. Convene
- II. Self Introductions
- III. Announcements From the Co-Chairs
- IV. SUBGROUP REPORTS
 - A. **Open Enrollment, Funding Charter Schools, Vouchers**
Scot Prebles – Superintendent, Forest Hills Local Schools
Steve McAfee – Treasurer, Whitehall City Schools
 - B. **Poverty, Preschool**
Doug Ute – Superintendent, Newark City Schools
Claudia Zaler – Treasurer, Waverley Local Schools
 - C. **Transportation**
Dalton Summers – Superintendent, River View Local Schools (Coshocton)
Kevin Lillie – Treasure, Geneva Area City Schools
 - D. **Special Education, Gifted, ELL**
Mary Ronan – Former Superintendent, Cincinnati City Schools
Jenni Logan – Treasurer, Lakota Local Schools (Butler)
 - E. **ESC's, CTC's, STEM**
Jerome Brockway – Superintendent, Ashtabula County CTC; former Superintendent, Ashtabula County ESC
Carrie Herringshaw – Treasurer, PENTA CTC
 - F. **Technology**
Michael Tefs – Superintendent, Wooster City Schools
Cajon Keeton – Treasurer, Benton-Carroll-Salem Local Schools
 - G. **Distribution**
Michael Hanlon – Chardon Local Schools
Jared Bunting – Trimble Local Schools
- V. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED STRUCTURE FOR DEVELOPING NEW BASE COST– **Base Cost Subgroup**
Tom Hosler – Superintendent, Perrysburg Exempted Village Schools
Ryan Pendleton – Treasurer, Akron City Schools
Participants: *Moderator, Tom Hosler*
Superintendents Ronan, Ute, Brockway, Prebles, Summers, Tefs, Hanlon

Page 2

Joe Regano, Superintendent, Solon City Schools
Brenda Bocke, Superintendent, Minster Local Schools
Julie Davis, Executive Director, Ohio Association of Elementary School
Administrators
Mike Freeman, Associate Director, Ohio Association of Secondary School
Administrators

VI. Discussion

VII. Announcements

VIII. Adjourn

Barbara Adams
Betts & Associates, Inc.
Ph: 614.929.8979
badams@bettsassociates.com

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 8:54 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 2/26/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

2/26/2018



FUTURE UNCERTAIN AS OHIO HIGHER EDUCATION BOARD SITS IDLE

The future of Ohio's once-powerful higher education advisory board remains uncertain as lawmakers move to change the way the state oversees education.

OHIO MOVES TO ADD WRIGHT FLYER TO STATE SEAL AMID DISPUTE

Ohio is staking another public claim to the Wright brothers' legacy amid a dispute with Connecticut over an aviator that state says flew first.

GOP GOVERNOR TAPS ADVISERS FOR GUN POLICY TALKS

Ohio Gov. John Kasich says he has convened a diverse group of advisers on gun policy to help him come up with a consensus policy proposal that he can bring forward in the coming days.



MEDICAL MARIJUANA MAY ARRIVE LATE IN OHIO

From litigation to audits to legislation, the attempted fixes are piling up for an Ohio medical marijuana program that has been beset by problems.

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR OHIO GOVERNOR HOPE TO WIN BACK TRUMP VOTERS

Getting Ohio Democrats who voted for President Donald Trump back into the fold was a theme Sunday as Democratic candidates for governor appeared before the public in Marysville.

KASICH FAVORS ARMING TEACHERS, AGAINST 'STAND YOUR GROUND'

Ohio Gov. John Kasich said he is hoping that a group he's quietly convened to find solutions to gun violence in the state will be able to deliver something by the end of next week to the General Assembly.

FRUSTRATED ACTIVIST BASHES KASICH, EYES RECREATIONAL WEED

An architect of Ohio's medical marijuana law Friday accused Gov. John Kasich of intentionally torpedoing the state's program, which is supposed to start in September.

UNION MONEY NOW FUELS GOP LEGISLATIVE CAMPAIGNS IN OHIO

Ohio has increasingly become an island among states that have passed a right-to-work law — an initiative strongly opposed by labor unions.

NEARLY NEW LINEUP AT DEMOCRATS' NEXT OHIO GOVERNOR DEBATE IN TOLEDO

When four Democratic candidates for Ohio governor gathered for a debate in Columbus in October, they spent their time discussing Ohio's opioid crisis, the scandal surrounding online charter school ECOT, and the financial cost to local communities of state tax breaks for businesses.

KASICH ASSAILS DEMOCRATS FOR LACKING AGENDA

Launching a spirited attack against the Democratic Party, Ohio Gov. John Kasich charged he has "no clue" what Democrats stand for and complained they have "no agenda."

CAPITOL INSIDER: KASICH CHANGES HIS TUNE ON 'ASSAULT WEAPONS' VOTE

Ohio Gov. John Kasich's evolution on gun issues apparently continues.

EDITORIAL: DOING NOTHING IS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE

Gun-rights advocates in the Ohio House of Representatives had every reason to expect House Bill 228 to pass easily, further dismantling the state's already-flimsy regulation of deadly weapons.

Dayton Daily News
www.daytondailynews.com

ANTHEM BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD ER POLICY CRITICIZED BY OHIO

LAWMAKERS

Several Democratic state lawmakers want to penalize Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield for a new policy that does not cover some emergency room visits deemed by the insurer not to be emergencies.

THE PLAIN DEALER

KASICH, OTHER GOVERNORS RESTATE NATIONAL NEED TO DEAL WITH HEALTH CARE COSTS AND QUALITY

Ohio Gov. John Kasich and his counterparts from Colorado and Alaska came to the nation's capital Friday to remind policy makers, businesses and the public: There's still much work to do on health care.

'YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU GET PUNCHED, AT LEAST IT ONLY HURTS FOR A MINUTE' OHIO MATTERS: EPISODE 6 - JOE SCHIAVONI

State Sen. Joe Schiavoni acknowledges the Democratic gubernatorial primary has been a tough fight so far.

REPUBLICAN OHIO GOVERNOR CANDIDATES SUPPORT ARMING TEACHERS TO HELP PREVENT SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

Both Republican candidates for Ohio governor say they support arming teachers as part of an approach to prevent further school shootings.

STATE EMPLOYEES WITH CLAIMS PROCESSED BY ANTHEM NOT AFFECTED BY NEW ER RULE

State employees are not affected by a new Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield rule that leaves some policyholders with emergency-room bills when the company determines they didn't need emergency care.

OHIO RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA BALLOT MEASURE MIGHT NOT HAPPEN IN 2018, BACKER SAYS

Ohioans hoping to vote to legalize recreational marijuana this year will likely have to wait a little longer, perhaps as long as two years.

FACT CHECK: OHIO DEMOCRATS TAKE FRANK LAROSE'S REMARKS OUT OF CONTEXT

The Ohio Democratic Party on Friday circulated a 13-second audio recording of Republican Frank LaRose, a candidate for secretary of state, claiming that he was bragging about a Republican plan to gerrymander states across the country, including Ohio in 2011.

MARY TAYLOR'S CHIEF OF STAFF HAS NEW JOB WITH OHIO'S MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM

A longtime Kasich administration staffer has a new job advising Ohio's nascent medical marijuana program, but few details were available Friday about what he will do in the new role.

ROLL OF SHAME OF OHIO LAWMAKERS WHO OVERRODE GOP GOV. TAFT'S 2006 VETO, ENDING CITIES' BANS ON MASSACRE-CAPABLE WEAPONS: THOMAS SUDDER

Some Ohioans sincerely believe the Second Amendment trumps any attempt to regulate massacre-capable guns.

FIRSTENERGY CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO POCKET CORPORATE-TAX-CUT WINDFALL AND SHORT CUSTOMERS: EDITORIAL

The last time U.S. corporate tax rates were slashed, during the Reagan administration, some state utility regulators were slow off the mark in making sure investor-owned utilities didn't just pocket the profits without adjusting consumer bills, The New York Times reports.

THE ENQUIRER

**THE NRA HAS A LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THESE OHIO REPUBLICANS
– AND DEMOCRATS.**

The National Rifle Association has long supported Republicans around the country, and vice versa.

THE BLADE
(One of America's Great Newspapers)

LITIGATION PROCEEDS OVER MEDICAL MARIJUANA LICENSING

A lawsuit that could endanger the timeline for Ohio's rollout of its fledgling medical marijuana program will forge ahead despite proposed legislation to give the state a chance to correct licensing flaws.

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Friday, March 2, 2018 8:50 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 3/2/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

3/2/2018

AP Associated Press

BILL WOULD REQUIRE DRIVERS TO MOVE OVER FOR GARBAGE TRUCKS

The Ohio House will consider legislation giving garbage trucks "move-over" protections in place for emergency vehicles.

NEXT PHASE OPENS IN OHIO'S \$8M OPIOID TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE

Ohio launched the second stage of its global technology challenge Wednesday aimed at finding solutions to the U.S. opioid crisis.

MORE THAN 131,000 ISSUED CONCEALED CARRY LICENSES IN OHIO

Ohio's attorney general says more than 131,000 residents were issued licenses last year to carry concealed weapons.

OHIO BILL WOULD ALLOW PROTECTIVE ORDERS FOR DATING VIOLENCE

A bipartisan bill allowing victims of dating violence to seek protective orders against alleged perpetrators is on its way to Ohio Republican Gov. John Kasich.

KASICH PROPOSES 'RED FLAG' LAW, OTHER GUN CHANGES IN STATE

Gov. John Kasich on Thursday advocated a "red flag" law for Ohio, a ban on armor-piercing ammunition and other gun policy positions he says represent political consensus in a bellwether state that could fly nationally.

2 DEMOCRATS FOR OHIO OFFICES WANT OPEN REDISTRICTING PROCESS

Two Democrats seeking statewide office in Ohio are pitching a plan they say would guarantee Ohio's redistricting process for congressional districts is more transparent to the public.

The Columbus Dispatch *Ohio's Greatest Online Newspaper*

FOR SCHIAVONI RUNNING MATE, DRUG CRISIS IS ALL IN THE FAMILY

Ohio's opioid epidemic is so extensive that it's struck the families of at least two of those seeking statewide office.

KASICH UNVEILS 'UNANIMOUS' PROPOSALS TO CURB GUN VIOLENCE

Saying he has to deal with the art of what's possible — what can pass the Republican-dominated General Assembly, Gov. John Kasich proposed six gun-law reforms on Thursday that he believes he can help Ohio avert some gun deaths.

CRITICS SLAM MEDICAID WORK PROPOSAL

Advocates, health-care providers and others slammed a state plan on Thursday that would require most non-disabled adults on Medicaid to work or lose their tax-funded health care.

LAWMAKERS OFFER COUNTIES \$114.5 MILLION FOR VOTING MACHINES

Counties would get nearly \$115 million in state money to replace aging voting machines in time for the 2019 election under a bill expected to pass the legislature this spring.

REP. BOGGS NEEDS HELP TO QUALIFY FOR PRIMARY BALLOT

State Rep. Kristin Boggs, D-Columbus, will need help from Republican Secretary of State Jon Husted in order to qualify to run as a write-in candidate for the May primary.

MAYOR GINTHER ENDORSES CORDRAY FOR GOVERNOR

Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther on Thursday endorsed Richard Cordray, former Ohio attorney general and former director of the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, in the Democratic primary for governor.

EDITORIAL: WORKPLACE DRUG USE DEMANDS ATTENTION

Drugs and workplaces don't mix. That's common sense, but now employers have more reasons to take a hard line against employee drug use.

Dayton Daily News

www.daytondailynews.com

MORE THAN 131,000 OHIOANS GET PERMITS TO CARRY CONCEALED GUNS

More than 131,000 Ohioans got their licenses last year to carry concealed weapons — 77,281 new ones and 54,064 renewals, according to Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine.

THE PLAIN DEALER

\$114.5 MILLION PROPOSED FOR NEW OHIO VOTING MACHINES

Ohio counties could soon get some money from the state to help replace aging voting equipment.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD TO FOCUS ON OHIO RACES FOR U.S. SENATE AND GOVERNOR

Planned Parenthood political organizations announced Thursday that they'll spend at least \$20 million in this year's elections, with a particular focus on gubernatorial and Senate races in Ohio and seven other states.

OHIO GOV. JOHN KASICH PROPOSES 6 GUN POLICY CHANGES

Tightening background checks for gun buyers and allowing "red flag" protection orders were among six gun violence policy recommendations made Thursday by a bipartisan panel assembled by Gov. John Kasich.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HASN'T DECIDED WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE IN OPIOID LITIGATION

As U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions promised, the Justice Department on Thursday evening filed a "statement of interest" in the swath of lawsuits being heard in Cleveland that accuse drug manufacturers and distributors of heavily contributing to the nation's opioid epidemic.

THE ENQUIRER

JOHN KASICH'S 'COMMONSENSE' GUN CONTROL PLAN: WOULD NEW OHIO GUN LAWS MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

John Kasich wants to change Ohio's gun laws, touting support for "commonsense" measures from a handful of Republicans and Democrats.

THE BLADE

(One of America's Great Newspapers)

KASICH PROPOSES GUN REFORM MEASURES

Gov. John Kasich on Thursday unveiled a package of proposed gun law reforms to prohibit the sale of armor-piercing ammunition and third-party "strawman" sales of guns to people prohibited from having them.

PROPOSAL WOULD FUND NEW VOTING MACHINES

Ohio would borrow \$114.5 million to help counties replace an aging fleet of voting machines in time by next year under a bill reworked Thursday.

EDITORIAL: RIGHT-TO-WORK INFRINGES ON EMPLOYERS

Is it too much to ask for some consistency from time to time?

EDITORIAL: DENNIS KUCINICH LEADING ON GUN ISSUE

Successful political campaigns sometimes catch a breeze they never counted on because of some unexpected occurrence that changes public attitudes between the time the candidates filed and the time the voters vote.

The Vindicator

SCHIAVONI GETS THE MAHONING DEMOCRATIC ENDORSEMENT FOR GOVERNOR

When it came to endorsing a candidate for governor, the Mahoning County Democratic Party overwhelmingly went for one of its own.

From: Finlay, Serena
Sent: Thursday, March 8, 2018 1:57 PM
To: Paretti, Dominic
Subject: Deadline Tomorrow: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS TOMORROW AT 4PM



MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of family and medical leave benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption, or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**



Janine Boyd
State Representative, Ohio House District 09



Kristin Boggs
State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: Rep88
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 5:23 PM
To: Reineke, Bill
CC: 'William Reineke'
Subject: FW: Agenda for tomorrow's Ohio House School Funding Workgroup Meeting
Attachments: SFWG Agenda 3-15-2017.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Importance: High

See attached

From: Jim Betts [mailto:jbetts@bettsassociates.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 3:58 PM
To: Jerome Brockway <jerome.brockway@atech.edu>; Jared Bunting <jared.bunting@trimblelocalschools.org>; Herringshaw Carrie <cherringshaw@pentacc.org>; Michael Hanlon <michael.hanlon@chardonschools.org>; Tom Hosler <tom@perrysburgschools.net>; Cajon Keeton <ckeeton@bcssd.com>; Kevin Lillie <kevin.lillie@genevaschools.org>; Jenni Logan <jenni.logan@lakotaonline.com>; Stephen McAfee <mcafees@wcsrams.org>; Ryan Pendleton <rpendlet@apslearns.org>; Scot Prebles <scotprebles@foresthills.edu>; Mary Ronan <ronanmary17@gmail.com>; Dalton Summers <dalton.summers@rvbears.org>; Michael Tefs <wstr_mtefs@woostercityschools.org>; Douglas Ute <dute@laca.org>; Claudia Zaler <claudia.zaler@waverlytigers.net>
Cc: Cupp, Bob <Bob.Cupp@ohiohouse.gov>; John Patterson <johnpattersonhd99@gmail.com>; Guzman, Angel <Angel.Guzman@ohiohouse.gov>; Derksen, Nick <Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov>; Hinman, Will <Will.Hinman@ohiohouse.gov>; Teresa Porter <educationworks@suddenlink.net>; Aaron Rausch <aaron.rausch@education.ohio.gov>; Rep89 <Rep89@ohiohouse.gov>; Boggs, Kristin <Kristin.Boggs@ohiohouse.gov>; Rep67 <Rep67@ohiohouse.gov>; Rep68 <Rep68@ohiohouse.gov>; Jay Edwards <jayedwardsohio@gmail.com>; Tavia Galonski <Jtb1666@aol.com>; Hambley, Steve <Steve.Hambley@ohiohouse.gov>; Brigid Kelly <brigidkelly24@gmail.com>; LaTourette, Sarah <Sarah.LaTourette@ohiohouse.gov>; Adam C. Miller <amiller@taftlaw.com>; Mike O'Brien <mobrien0618@aol.com>; Rep88 <Rep88@ohiohouse.gov>; Rogers, John <John.Rogers@ohiohouse.gov>; Rep02 <Rep02@ohiohouse.gov>; Scott Ryan <ryan.71st@gmail.com>; Rep92 <Rep92@ohiohouse.gov>; Babcock, Douglas <Douglas.Babcock@ohiohouse.gov>; Belden, Michael <Michael.Belden@ohiohouse.gov>; Finlay, Serena <Serena.Finlay@ohiohouse.gov>; Hartman, Sarah <Sarah.Hartman@ohiohouse.gov>; Hupp, Jacob <Jacob.Hupp@ohiohouse.gov>; Jacob, Abe <Abe.Jacob@ohiohouse.gov>; Lane, Hope <Hope.Lane@ohiohouse.gov>; Lawlor, Allison <Allison.Lawlor@ohiohouse.gov>; McCoy, Amanda <Amanda.McCoy@ohiohouse.gov>; Pelino, Anita <Anita.Pelino@ohiohouse.gov>;

Price, Ciara <Ciara.Price@ohiohouse.gov>; Sgraves, Brandon
<Brandon.Sgraves@ohiohouse.gov>; Sandin, Bailey <Bailey.Sandin@ohiohouse.gov>; Turk,
Ellen <Ellen.Turk@ohiohouse.gov>; Tom Ash <ash@basa-ohio.org>; Dave Axner
<axner@basa-ohio.org>; Matt Bunting <mbunting@athenscsd.org>; Craig Burford
<burford@oesca.org>; Melissa Clark <clarkm@ohea.org>; Vikki Clemons
<vikki.clemons@hcesc.org>; Melissa Cropper <mcropper@oft-aft.org>; Howard Fleeter
<hfleeter@ameritech.net>; Russ Harris <harrisr@ohea.org>; Chad Hilliker
<chad.hilliker@hcesc.org>; Jennifer Hogue <jhogue@ohioschoolboards.org>; Darold
Johnson <djohnson@oft-aft.org>; Matthew Ketcham <matthew.ketcham@mccesc.org>; Jan
Osborn <josborn@putnamcountyes.org>; Jeannette Oxender
<jeannette.oxender@hcesc.org>; Bill Phillis <ohioeanda@sbcglobal.net>; Anthony Podojil
<apodojil@ahqe.org>; Erik Roush <eroush@columbus.k12.oh.us>; Barbara Shaner
<barbaracshaner@gmail.com>; Ann Sheldon <executivedirector@oagc.com>; Jay Smith
<jaysmith@ohioschoolboards.org>; Michael Sobul <msobul@granvilleschools.org>; Amy
Wells <awells@nwlsd.org>; Geoffrey Andrews
<geoffrey.andrews@managementcouncil.org>; Bartlett, Malika
<Malika.Bartlett@ohiohouse.gov>; Claire Bennett <claire.bennett@squirepb.com>; Scarlett
Bouder <Scarlett@advocacyandcommunication.org>; Greg Browning
<capitalpartners@mac.com>; Megan Burke <Megan.Burke@ofcc.ohio.gov>; Benjamin Cech
<Benjamin.Cech@jeoc.ohio.gov>; Patrick Colucci <p.colucci@buckeyeschools.info>; Paul
Craft <craftpa@delawarecityschools.net>; Stephanie Dodd
<stephanie.dodd@education.ohio.gov>; Jason Glover <Jason.Glover@lsc.ohio.gov>; Lisa
Gray <lisagray@lgaconsult.com>; Dan Grothause <dan.grothause@smriders.net>; Adam
Hewitt <adamhewit@sbcglobal.net>; Victoria Jackson <VJackson@policymattersohio.org>;
Pete Japikse <pjapikse@ohioschoolboards.org>; Paul Johnson <pjohnso@bgsu.edu>; Tom
Johnson <thomas.twj.johnson@gmail.com>; Kelly Kefauver
<Kelly.Kefauver@ohiosenate.gov>; Larry Keough <lkeough@ohiocathconf.org>; Lindsey
Ladd <ladd@ohio.edu>; Hannah Marchetto <hmarchetto@perrysburgschools.net>; Lauren
Jones <Lauren.Jones@jeoc.ohio.gov>; Terrence Moore <Terrence.Moore@jeoc.ohio.gov>;
Carol Napp <Carol.Napp@lsc.ohio.gov>; Doug Palmer <dpalmer@ohioschoolboards.org>;
Wendy Patton <wpatton@policymattersohio.org>; Thomas Perkins
<no_tperkins@seovec.org>; Jason Phillips <jason.phillips@lsc.ohio.gov>; Will Schwartz
<wschwartz@ohioschoolboards.org>; Kim Miller Smith
<kmillersmith@ohioschoolboards.org>; Alex Vitale <Alex.Vitale@lsc.ohio.gov>; Daniel
Wilson <wilson@mentorschools.org>; Sue Yount <SYount@BRICKER.COM>
Subject: Agenda for tomorrow's Ohio House School Funding Workgroup Meeting
Importance: High

All,

We look forward to seeing you at our regular monthly meeting tomorrow.

Attached is the agenda.

Jim Betts

Betts & Associates, Inc.

Cell: 614-565-0591

jbetts@bettsassociates.com

OHIO HOUSE SCHOOL FUNDING WORKGROUP

March 15, 2018
10:00 a.m., Room 1948
Verne Riffe Center
77 S. High St., Columbus, OH 43215

- I. Convene
- II. Announcements from the Co-Chairs
- III. Discussion regarding preliminary recommendations and concept proposals from Technology Subgroup
 - Michael Tefs – Superintendent, Wooster City Schools
 - Cajon Keeton – Treasurer, Benton-Carroll-Salem Local Schools
 - State Representative Rick Carfagna
 - Geoffrey Andrews, Executive Director, MCOECN
- IV. SUBGROUP REPORTS
 - A. **Open Enrollment, Funding Charter Schools, Vouchers**
 - Scot Prebles – Superintendent, Forest Hills Local Schools
 - Steve McAfee – Treasurer, Whitehall City Schools
 - B. **Poverty, Preschool**
 - Doug Ute – Superintendent, Newark City Schools
 - Claudia Zaler – Treasurer, Waverley Local Schools
 - C. **Transportation**
 - Dalton Summers – Superintendent, River View Local Schools (Coshocton)
 - Kevin Lillie – Treasure, Geneva Area City Schools
 - D. **Special Education, Gifted, ELL**
 - Mary Ronan – Former Superintendent, Cincinnati City Schools
 - Jenni Logan – Treasurer, Lakota Local Schools (Butler)
 - E. **ESC's, CTC's, STEM**
 - Jerome Brockway – Superintendent, Ashtabula County CTC; former Superintendent, Ashtabula County ESC
 - Carrie Herringshaw – Treasurer, PENTA CTC
 - F. **BASE COST**
 - Tom Hosler – Superintendent, Perrysburg Exempted Village Schools
 - Ryan Pendleton – Treasurer, Akron City Schools
 - G. **Distribution**
 - Michael Hanlon – Chardon Local Schools
 - Jared Bunting – Trimble Local Schools
- V. Discussion
- VI. Announcements
- VII. Adjourn

From: Rep88
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 2:53 PM
To: Reineke, Bill
CC: 'William Reineke'
Subject: FW: Urging Your Support for Sub. HB 189 Before the Spring Recess
Attachments: Eric_Bakken_Regis Corporation_Sub_HB_189_Letter_Of_Support_Signed.pdf; 2018_0316 OSA Ltr to All Ohio House Members Urging Support for Sub HB 189 - FINAL.pdf

See attached.

From: Fiore, Anthonio [mailto:tfiore@keglerbrown.com]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 7:03 PM
To: Fiore, Anthonio <tfiore@keglerbrown.com>
Cc: Elizabeth Murch <elizabeth@ohiosalonassociation.com>
Subject: Urging Your Support for Sub. HB 189 Before the Spring Recess

Dear Ohio House members,

We are writing to ask for your **support** and **expeditious passage** of the **occupational licensure reforms** to Ohio's cosmetology industry contained in **Sub.HB 189** before the Spring recess. The announcement this week of more private cosmetology schools closing makes it more important than ever to pass the reforms contained in **Sub. HB 189**. **Six additional school closures** were announced bringing the total number to **28 closures since May 2015** (or around 30%). In addition, we have included a few items raised by opponents that we are willing to work on in the Senate if the bill is favorably passed off the House floor.

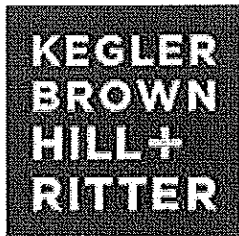
I've also attached a list of all public testimony on **HB 189**. In addition the **letters of support from smaller salon owners** around the state, we just received the attached letter of support from Regis Corp that has over 30 brands under its umbrella with hundreds of locations across all 88 counties.

Have a great weekend. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Tony

Anthonio C. Fiore
Of Counsel



65 East State Street | Suite 1800 | Columbus, OH 43215
 direct (614) 462-5428 | mobile (614) 906-8669 | fax (614) 464-2634
afiore@keglerbrown.com

[my bio](#) + [vCard](#) + [email](#)



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5th Hearing – March 7, 2018

Bill	Status	Amendments	Fiscal Notes	Analysis
H. B. No. 189	5th Hearing	—	Download	Download
Witness	Organization	Stance	Document	
Wezlynn Davis	null	Opponent	Download	
Patrick Thompson	null	Opponent	Download	
Don Boyd	Ohio Chamber of Commerce	Proponent	Download	
Sue Carter Moore	Ohio Association of Cosmetology Schools	Opponent	Download	
Nancy Brown	Brown Aveda Institute	Opponent	Download	
Brandon Ogden	null	Proponent	Download	
Natalie Lockhart	JCPenney Salon	Proponent	Download	

4th Hearing – February 27, 2018

Bill	Status	Amendments	Fiscal Notes	Analysis
H. B. No. 189	4th Hearing	I 132 1073-3	Download	Download
Witness	Organization	Stance	Document	
Lisa Nelson	null	Proponent	Download	
Ohio Salon Association	null	Proponent	Download	
Don Boyd	null	Proponent	Download	
Clara Ostermayer	null	Proponent	Download	
Chris Ferruso	NFIB	Proponent	Download	

3rd Hearing – June 21, 2017

Bill	Status	Amendments	Fiscal Notes	Analysis
H. B. No. 189	3rd Hearing		Download	Download
Witness	Organization	Stance	Document	
Greg Lawson	The Buckeye Institute	Interested Party	Download	
Michael Shuh	null	Proponent	Download	
Marlaina Yeager	null	Proponent	Download	
Dana Fallais	null	Proponent	Download	
Bridget Sharpe	Professional Beauty Association	Proponent	Download	
Myra Reddy	Future of Beauty Industry Coalition	Proponent	Download	
NaCole Cumberland	null	Proponent	Download	
Rowena Yeager	null	Proponent	Download	
Beth Hickey	null	Proponent	Download	
David Boucher-Additional	null	Proponent	Download	
David Boucher	null	Proponent	Download	
Rachelle King	null	Proponent	Download	
Kerry Sawyer	null	Proponent	Download	
Nancy Brown	null	Opponent	Download	
Wezlynn VanDyke Davis	null	Opponent	Download	
Patrick Thompson	null	Opponent	Download	
Angela Harvey	null	Opponent	Download	
Jill Hawkins Mitchell	null	Opponent	Download	
Gerry Reis	null	Opponent	Download	
Will Molden	null	Opponent	Download	
Chris Ferruso	NFIB	Proponent	Download	

2nd Hearing – May 23, 2017

Bill	Status	Amendments	Fiscal Notes	Analysis
H. B. No. 189	2nd Hearing	-	Download	Download
Witness	Organization	Stance	Document	

Tony Fiore	Ohio Salon Association	Proponent	Download
Clara Osterhage	null	Proponent	Download
Charles Penzone	The Charles Penzone Salons	Proponent	Download
Frank Gambuzza	null	Proponent	Download
Lon Yeager	SportClips	Proponent	Download
Debra Tillery	null	Proponent	Download
Stefan Eckert	Great Clips	Proponent	Download
Bridget Sharpe	Professional Beauty Association	Proponent	Download
Frank Schoeneman	Empire Education Group	Proponent	Download
Tom Quick and Lisa Groome	Roosters Men's Grooming Center	Proponent	Download
Tasha Shepline	null	Proponent	Download
Gordon Logan	Sports Clips	Proponent	Download
Dub Nelson	Roosters Men's Grooming Centers	Proponent	Download

1st Hearing – May 17, 2017

Bill	Status	Amendments	Fiscal Notes	Analysis
H. B. No. 189	1st Hearing	—	Download	Download
Witness	Organization	Stance	Document	
Rep Roegner	Null	Proponent	Download	
Rep Reeco	Null	Proponent	Download	

REGIS CORPORATION
7201 Metro Boulevard | Minneapolis, MN 55439 | 952-947-7777

March 15, 2018

To: All Ohio House of Representatives

From: Eric Bakken
EVP, President—Franchise

RE: Urging your support for Sub. HB 189

My name is Eric Bakken, and I serve as the Executive Vice President and President—Franchise for Regis Corporation. I'm writing to urge your support for Sub. HB 189.

Regis Corporation is a leader in beauty salons and cosmetology education. As of December 31, 2017, the we owned, operated, franchised or held ownership interests in over 8,800 locations worldwide. We also maintain an ownership interest in Empire Education Group in the U.S. Regis owns or franchises 386 salon locations in Ohio, amounting to over 2,000 stylists and managers in the state. We operate under several brands in all 88 counties throughout Ohio, including: Best Cuts, Borics Hair Care, Famous Hair, Fiesta Salons, First Choice Haircutters, Haircrafters, Mastercuts, Regis Salons, Roosters, Saturdays, SmartStyle, and Supercuts.

At Regis, we are deeply committed to providing our customers with the safest and highest quality experience in our salons. To achieve this, we ensure our stylists and managers are properly educated and licensed in accordance with state regulations. We also offer our team members continued education and training to refine their skills, keep on trend and to stay in tune with the latest sanitary protocols. However, our industry has become increasingly competitive, most of which is attributable to a shortage in skilled labor. That's why for over four years, Regis has supported a group called the Future of the Beauty Industry Coalition (FBIC) whose main purpose is to provide reasonable reforms to state cosmetology law using research and analytics from all 50 states.

The FBIC consists of cosmetologists, students, salon owners, manufacturers, distributors, and cosmetology schools. The FBIC values our industry's appreciation of safety and quality, and therefore has proposed Sub. HB 189 which modifies the existing law and reduces the Ohio license minimum hour requirements from 1,500 to 1,000, as opposed to a complete deregulation of the industry. In addition, Sub. HB 189 lays the groundwork for model occupational licensing reform legislation for the cosmetology industry in all 50 states and helps to eliminate a barrier of entry into our industry.

The minimum 1,500 hours state licensing requirement serves as a barrier of entry into the beauty industry. In addition, Ohio's reciprocity law requires a licensee to sit for an Ohio exam even though they may have passed another state's licensing exam a month or so before. This doesn't help our stylist be mobile in deciding where to work and live, especially near Ohio's bordering counties. Sub. HB 189 reduces the hours to 1,000 hours for a full cosmetology license and helps out of state licensees come to Ohio to work and raise a family.

For these reasons, I am writing on behalf of Regis Corporation in support of the Ohio Salon Association's proposed comprehensive reform package to Ohio's cosmetology laws contained in Sub. HB 189 (and the

REGIS CORPORATION
7201 Metro Boulevard | Minneapolis, MN 55439 | 952-947-7777

companion bill in the Ohio Senate, SB 129). This reform is a positive step for our industry, and I respectfully request this committee's support on the work being done here.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to submit this letter in support of Sub. HB 189.



Eric Bakken
EVP, President—Franchise
Regis Corporation



OSA

OHIO SALON ASSOCIATION

March 16, 2018

Dear Representative:

We are writing to ask for your **support** and **expeditious passage** of the **occupational licensure reforms** to Ohio's cosmetology industry contained in **Sub. HB 189** next Wednesday, March 21, 2018. The announcement this week of more private cosmetology schools closing makes it more important than ever to pass the reforms contained in **Sub. HB 189**. Six additional school closures were announced bringing the total number to 28 closures since May 2015 (around 30%). In addition, we have included a few items raised by opponents that we are willing to work on in the Senate if the bill is favorably passed off the House floor.

Sub. HB 189 will:

- 1) **Support Ohio's Attainment Goal 2025, that includes:**
 - a) **helping more Ohioans compete for quality jobs** that pay a family-sustaining wage and lead to career advancement;
 - b) **removing barriers to education and employment** for individuals;
 - c) **helping Ohio employers find the talent** they need to succeed and grow;
 - d) **providing effective and efficient job training aligned to in-demand occupations** and employer needs resulting in **workplace-valued credentials**; and
 - e) **assisting in achieving the attainment goal** of the Governor's Executive Workforce Board, Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Higher Education to have 65% of Ohioans ages 25 to 65 achieve a credential/license or degree by 2025. (Ohioans are currently at 43% of that attainment goal.)
- 2) **Lower hours to reduce the barrier for women, men and minorities to enter the beauty industry.**

The bill:

 - a) **supports the notion that government should only mandate the minimum number of hours necessary to ensure safe and sanitary cosmetology practices as a barrier to entry into the profession – 1,000 hours is the correct requirement** – though some believe this is still too many hours;
 - b) **equalizes the government mandated hours between public and private schools. Public schools in Ohio are already teaching at 1,000 hours** and producing graduates who are entering the workforce with similar graduation rates, licensure rates and earning potential;
 - c) **maintains high training standards without mandating an additional 500 hours on private school students. A national study as well as salon owners indicate that more time in school does not make the student more job ready;**
 - d) **acknowledges that there are currently more public students entering the profession at 1,000 hours of training rather than private schools at 1,500 hours;**
 - e) **ensures private schools are still able to obtain federal funding for students at 1,000 hours, can require 500 additional hours and charge whatever they want for tuition – the question is whether students will be willing to pay for and attend such programs – the free market will decide; and,**
 - f) **creates an apprenticeship option for future cosmetology students to earn a wage while they learn about the beauty industry. Under today's 1,500-hour program students are forced to pay tuition and provide services to the public in school clinics without compensation for hundreds of hours.**

3) **Stop Ohio law from unfairly requiring private cosmetology education mandating 1,500 hours at the expense of students when public schools already teach at 1,000 hours.** There is no risk to public safety if a cosmetologist attending a private school achieves 1,000 hours for a license just like the public school student does today. In Ohio today:

- Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) attend **150 hours** of training.
- Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) attend **1376 hours** of training.
- Police officers attend **695 hours** of training.
- Paramedics attend **800 hours** of training.

4) **Make Ohio a "RECIPROCITY-IN" state—our focus must be on job opportunities in Ohio.** Many states do not require licensees to take any additional education or even an exam when seeking reciprocity after one to two years of practicing as was indicated by a recent LSC review. The bill:

- a) removes the requirement of taking exams in Ohio if already licensed in another state;
- b) removes the requirement that the standards in Ohio for obtaining the license the applicant seeks are substantially equal to the other state or country's requirements;
- c) allows licensees to enter the workforce sooner with less debt;
- d) permits work experience/hours to count towards licensing hours when seeking to transfer a license to another state;
- e) requires the Ohio Board to use a national exam which makes our licensees more marketable in other states; and,
- f) maintains high standards, but makes it easier to practice in Ohio than in most states.

Although private school opponents have refused to attend interested party meetings we have addressed several issues raised by them and have highlighted the changes below. These changes are in Sub. HB 189. The substitute bill:

- a) permits pre-graduate testing to help increase licensure rates;
- b) returns manicuring hours from 100 to 200;
- c) returns esthetics hours from 300 to 600;
- d) removes the 5-year experience requirement for instructors;
- e) removes the language increasing the surety bond from \$10,000 to \$100,000 for schools; and,
- f) requires salons and schools of cosmetology to work in partnership to establish the apprenticeship program.

As mentioned above, the OSA has been trying to address as many of the opponents concerns as possible throughout this legislative process. We are committed to working on the following issues raised by the opponents in the Senate if Sub. HB 189 passes out of the House:

Opponents concern: *Getting rid of the advanced license is deregulating our profession.*

- **OSA Response:** The advanced license doesn't provide students with marketable skills that garner a higher wage and is not recognized in other states. Since it was created a few years ago schools did not adapt and work to provide input on curriculum to make it valuable. Schools can still offer 1,500 hours' worth of classes or any other advanced classes they wish. There is no law preventing them from offering classes that exceed the minimum. And funding is available for up to 1,500 hours so they can get paid. The state should only legislate minimums for occupational licenses that are barriers to entry into a profession. In reality private schools combine the initial license at 1,500 hours and the advanced license at 300 hours and require students to attend and pay for an 1,800-hour program. This cannot be the case in the future.
- **OSA Compromise:** The OSA will support changing Sub. HB 189 in the Senate to preserve the Advance License for those licensees as of the effective date of the bill, so those individuals can indefinitely renew this license. This still provides any school the opportunity to create an Advanced

Certificate program, but such a program will not carry with it state mandated hours. Schools are free to provide cosmetology programs above the 1,000-hour requirement under Sub. HB 189 – the question is whether students will pay for the additional training and education – the free market will decide.

Opponents concern: *Natural Hair Styling license is valuable and should stay. It negatively affects ethnic populations to get rid of it including salon owners.*

- **OSA Response:** The first time OSA heard opposition to removing the Natural Hair Stylist license came on Wednesday, March 7th in the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee hearing on Sub. HB 189.
- This license is not widely utilized—and it is quite burdensome at 450 hours of education to sit for the licensing exam. For instance, based on the Board's 2017 Annual Report there were 5 active and one new individuals with a natural hair stylist license, one active and one new individuals had a natural hair stylist instructor license, 34 active and 45 new individuals had an advanced natural hair stylist license, and there were 14 active and 4 newly licensed natural hair stylist salons. Compare this to 17,639 active and 2,708 new cosmetology licensees for the same period.
- **OSA compromise:** With that said, so long as the braiding registration stays in the law, we would compromise to allow the natural hair stylist license to stay in as well.

Opponents concern: *The way the definitions are in this bill make hair design the same as cosmetology at 800 hours.*

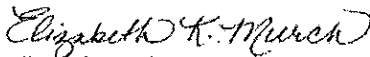
- **OSA Response:** The Ohio State Cosmetology and Barbering Board staff provided the language in the bill to clarify the practice of cosmetology which was included in the substitute bill.
 - Their intent was that cosmetology is defined as providing all the branches of cosmetology, and they believed the definition of cosmetology could not include cosmetology.
 - There has never been an intention of having a full cosmetology license 800-hour program as the opponents claim.
- **OSA compromise:** The OSA supports amending the final bill in the Senate to clarify and make clear that a full cosmetology license requires 1,000 hours, a hair design license requires 800 hours, an esthetics license requires 600 hours, a manicuring license requires 200 hours and a natural hair stylist license requires 450 hours.

The opponents should actually work with salon owners to address significant issues in the beauty industry, especially the fact that 28 private schools of cosmetology (or 30%) have abruptly closed their doors since May of 2015 and we expect more. These closures have required students to find alternate programs to finish their training very little to compensate them for these schools failing to help them become licensed and find employment in the beauty industry.

The Ohio Salon Association is focused on cosmetology student success, school success and addressing workforce issues for all salons and job providers in Ohio.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We have attached a list of business owners as well as state and national associations supporting HB 189 and SB 129.

Please feel free to contact our lobbyist, Tony Fiore, at afiore@keglerbrown.com or 614-462-5428 if you have any questions about this legislation.


Elizabeth Murch
Executive Director


Tony Fiore
Legislative Counsel

Supporters of Ohio HB 189 and SB 129

Arthur Gray Holdings, Inc.	Holiday Hair	QuickGroome, Inc. - Roosters
Beauty Supply Outlet	Hyland MH Retreats, LLC	Quiddity Partners, LLC
Best Cuts	Hyland Properties, LLC	R.L.O., Inc.
Bhooshay Enterprises of Ohio, LLC	Institute for Justice	Rachelle King
Blue Co. Brands	Intercoiffure America/Canada	RamseyRooney & Co.
Borics Hair Care	International Salon/Spa	Regis Salon
Burben Investments, Inc.	Business Network	S&L Cuts, Inc.
Carlton Hair	j.calico, LLC	SARJNT, Inc.
Charles Penzone, Inc.	JaNaMo Enterprises, Inc.	Sassoon Salon
Cincy Clips, Inc.	Jay-Mar Enterprises, LLC	Saturday's Hair Salon
City Looks Salons	JC Penney Salons	Sawyer Business Group, Inc.
Cool Cuts	JM Elliott Enterprise, LLC	Scott Burandt
Cost Cutters	Kerry and Anthony Sawyer	SDM Partners, Inc.
Courtne Wesselman	Lake House Holdings, LLC	Shaun Norton dba SportClips
CSJ Ventures, Inc.	Laventure, Inc.	Signature Style Salons
DANDREA, LLC	LGC Properties Management	SmartStyle Hair Salons
Daniel Feiwell – No LLC	LST Clips, Inc.	SportClips
Demer Retail Ventures, LLC	M&M Wardeiner, Inc.	SRL Clips, LLC
Eckert, Inc. dba Great Clips	Majicuts	Studio Wish Salon
Empire Beauty Schools	MasterCuts	Style America
Esquire Holdings, LLC	Maxco, Inc.	Supercuts
Famous Hair	Maxxco, LLC	Tasha Sheipline
Fiesta Salons	Michael's Salon and Spa	TGF Hair Salon
FirstChoice HairCutters	MMAO, LLC	The 220 Group, Ltd.
Future of the Beauty Industry Coalition	NeCole Cumberlander	Professional Beauty Association
Gem City Clips	NFIB/Ohio	The Visage Group
Gold Coast Ventures, LLC	North Coast Partners, LLC	Tillery Enterprises, Inc.
Great Clips	Norton Clips, LLC	Tillery Salons, Inc.
Great Expectations	Oakpoint Partners, Inc.	TJTKR Enterprises, Inc.
Hair Crafters	Ohio Chamber of Commerce	Trinity Leadership 6, LLC
Hair Masters	Ohio Salon Association	Trinity Leadership 7, LLC
Hair Plus	Outlooks for Hair	Ulta
Head Start Haircare	Panopoulos Salons	Vanity Ventures, Inc.
	Park 50 Clips, LLC	We Care Hair
	Pro Cuts	

From: Lundregan, Scott
Sent: Friday, April 6, 2018 7:13 PM
To: latoursm@gmail.com; Reineke, Bill
CC: Myers, Marisa; Kasych, Shawn
Subject: Whips next week

Thank you so much for all your hard work! Sorry for the delay—been a long day working through JLEC forms and getting the calendar approved.

Here are the bills to whip for the weekend:

Bills for Third Consideration

- **House Bill 131** -- Reps. Gavarone, Reineke -- Reported out of Health (15-0)
 - *To modify the laws governing the practice of physical therapy*
- **House Bill 263** -- Rep. Lanese -- Reported out of Economic Development, Commerce and Labor (9-5, Brinkman, Lipps)
 - *To generally allow an owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dog to take the dog in an outdoor dining area of a retail food establishment or food service operation*
- **House Bill 360** -- Rep. Greenspan -- Reported out of Education and Career Readiness (10-7, Hood)
 - *Enact Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act*
- **House Bill 378** -- Reps. Smith, Cera -- Reported out of Finance (25-3, Butler, Romanchuk, Thompson)
 - *To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation*
- **House Bill 211** -- Rep. Hughes -- Reported out of Economic Development, Commerce and Labor (12-2, Dean, Hood)
 - *To require the licensure of home inspectors and to create the Ohio Home Inspector Board to regulate the licensure and performance of home inspectors*
- **House Bill 508** -- Reps. Ryan, Reineke -- Pending in Finance
 - *To establish the OhioCorps Pilot Project and to make an appropriation*
- **House Bill 489** -- Rep. Dever -- Reported out of Government Accountability and Oversight (7-3)
 - *Address financial institution regulation and consumer protection*

Snapshots

House Bill 131

HB 131 modifies the activities that may be performed by a physical therapist. Under current law, a physical therapist can evaluate and assess, but not diagnosis. HB 131 specifies that physical therapists can determine 1.) a physical therapy diagnosis to treat physical impairments, functional limitations, and physical disabilities, 2.) a prognosis, and 3.) a plan of therapeutic intervention. The bill specifically states that a “physical therapy diagnosis” does not include a medical diagnosis.

In Ohio, physical therapists can treat patients without a referral from a physician. Also unchanged by the bill, physical therapists are still required to refer patients to another healthcare provider if the patient’s condition is outside their scope of practice. HB 131 simply aids in determining a physical therapy diagnosis and a course of therapeutic intervention or referral to another provider.

A number of witnesses originally testified as opponents to the bill including the Ohio State Medical Association, the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians, the Ohio Osteopathic Association, and the Ohio Orthopaedic Society. However, the final version of the bill stripped provisions to which they objected. To the best of our knowledge, these groups are now all interested parties.

HB 131 is supported by the Ohio Physical Therapy Association and was reported by the Health Committee unanimously.

House Bill 263

Many consumers are interested in spending more time with their canine companions, and our businesses respond by marketing to these individuals through pet-friendly spaces or events. With the rise of pet-friendly establishments, HB 263 allows restaurants to cater to this demographic by permitting dogs on their outdoor patios if the restaurant chooses.

Under current administrative code, restaurants cannot permit dogs on their patios. However, in many places, this restriction was unenforced. HB 263 will give restaurants the option to allow patrons to bring their dogs while ensuring proper health standards. The bill gives the Departments of Agriculture and Health the ability to develop rules, including rules that specifically prohibit an employee from touching a dog, require the

use of single-use dining ware for serving food or water to a dog, and require signage that dogs are permitted in the area.

Additionally, HB 263 specifies that a person who brings a dog to an outdoor dining area is liable for any damage that the dog causes.

HB 263 is supported by the Ohio Restaurant Association, the Humane Society, and various other organizations. It was reported by the Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor Committee 9-5 with Reps. Brinkman and Lipps voting "no."

House Bill 360

Ohio law requires public schools to adopt anti-bullying policies that prohibit "bullying, harassment, or intimidation" of another student, address disciplinary responses for violations, and set reporting requirements. HB 360 seeks to strengthen the anti-bullying statute, while providing schools with flexibility to address issues.

HB 360 allows schools to institute tiered suspensions based on the number of bullying incidents: the first offense would be up to 10 days suspension, the second would be up to 30 days, and the third would be up to 182 days. The school could also prohibit a bully from participating in extracurricular activities.

Additionally, the bill specifically permits a school to develop a community service plan for the bully and offer counseling and/or support for the bully and victim. HB 360 requires the State Board of Education to review best practices and requires state institutions of higher education to adopt policies regarding bullying and harassment.

Several changes were made to the bill in committee that focused on providing local school districts more flexibility and control over dealing with cases of bullying on an individual basis. The committee also accepted an amendment that exempted independent and private schools from the provisions of the bill.

HB 360 was reported by the Education and Career Readiness Committee 10-7 with Rep. Hood voting "no."

House Bill 378

HB 378 seeks to incentivize the build-out of broadband service in areas of Ohio that do not have access to broadband internet and strengthen the connectivity of the state. The bill appropriates \$50 million in FY 2018-2019 to fund the newly created Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program under the Development Services Agency (DSA). The money will be used to award grants for infrastructure projects that extend broadband service to unserved areas of the state.

Of the total funding appropriated in each year, \$49 million will be used for grants and the remaining \$1 million will be used by DSA to contract to do broadband research, testing, analysis, and community engagement and planning. The source of the funding is money in the Third Frontier Research and Development Fund. Political subdivisions, private businesses, nonprofits, and cooperatives are all eligible for grants under the program.

The bill has various proponents including local government groups, the Ohio Farm Bureau, the Ohio Library Council, Connect Ohio, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission, and others. Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association is an opponent. The bill was reported by the Finance Committee with Reps. Butler, Romanchuk, and Thompson voting “no.”

House Bill 211

To ensure consumers are getting the value they expect in their home, HB 211 requires the licensure of home inspectors and creates the Ohio Home Inspector Board.

Thirty states – including Indiana, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia – require home inspectors to be licensed. HB 211 will give homebuyers more trust in the expertise of home inspectors when purchasing a home.

HB 211 is supported by the Ohio Association of Realtors and the American Society of Home Inspectors. The bill is opposed by Nemastil Home Inspections, the HomeSpection Training Institute, and Americans for Prosperity. It was reported by the Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor Committee 12-2 with Reps. Dean and Hood voting “no.”

House Bill 508

As another tool combat the opioid epidemic in Ohio, HB 508 is a pilot program aimed at helping high-risk, low-income students succeed and move on to the next phase of their educational career.

HB 508, or OhioCorps, is a mentorship pilot program that pairs college students with at-risk youth to ensure high school students are getting the support they need and guidance toward a pathway to higher education. College students receive a stipend for their mentorship and mentees receive a \$1,000 scholarship upon completion of the program, meeting certain requirements. "At-risk" students eligible for the program are at least 13 years of age and have an expected family contribution of \$0 or have been impacted by family opioid addiction.

The program will be administered by state universities, community colleges, and technical colleges. The bill appropriates \$2.5 million from the General Revenue Fund for the program.

HB 508 has no opponents at this time. It is currently pending in the Finance Committee.

House Bill 489

HB 489 reforms Ohio's financial institutions regulatory framework and adds layers of consumer protection. The goal is to provide opportunities for Ohioans by creating a friendly environment for acquiring capital.

After the Great Recession, the federal government increased regulatory requirements on depositories – this had an unintended impact on smaller banks and credit unions and many were forced to close. HB 489 gives some regulatory reliefs to banks and credit unions, while ensuring consumers have appropriate protections.

Among other provisions, the bill allows financial institutions meeting certain asset and ratings requirements to go longer periods between regulatory examinations. Additionally, HB 489 allows financial institutions to report, to the regulators and consumers, and correct bona fide errors; if the institution offers reasonable restitution, it would be held harmless for the error.

HB 489 is supported by the Ohio Bankers League, the National Association of Consumer Attorneys, the National Association of Bankruptcy Attorneys, the Ohio Credit Union League, and the Community Bankers Association of Ohio; the bill has no opponents. It was reported by the Government Accountability and Oversight Committee 7-3 on party line.

Scott Lundregan

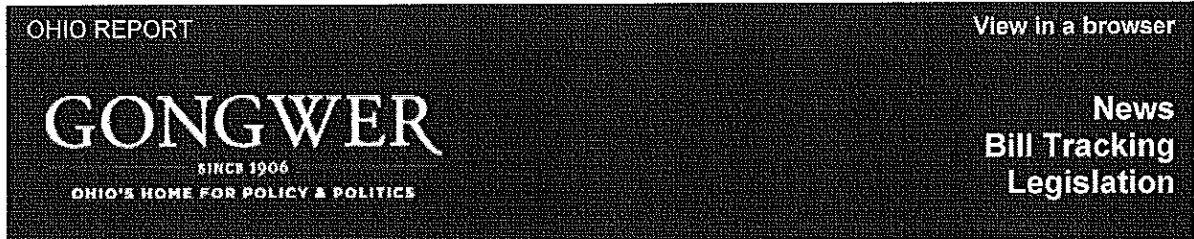
Deputy Chief of Staff / Policy Director / Deputy Legal Counsel

House Republican Caucus

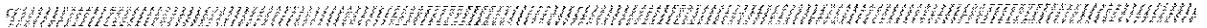
Ohio House of Representatives

614-466-1460

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 6:19 PM
To: DL_Gongwer
Subject: Ohio Report, Friday, April 20, 2018
Attachments: 180420dayplan.htm; Apr20.htm; 180420plan.htm



OHIO REPORT FRIDAY, APRIL 20



Energy Standards Bill Timeline Unclear As Another Wind Setback Proposal Is Introduced

State Unemployment Drops To Lowest Level In More Than 16 Years

Senator Backing Medical Marijuana Audit Bill Supports Review By Commerce Department

High Court To Hear Traffic Camera Case

Candidates Stress Experience In House District 26 Primary

OPA: Pharmacists Can Serve As Educators In Opioid Struggle

Medical Pot Program Halt Rejected; Complaint Against DeWine Dismissed; No New Trial For Beck; Buckeye Institute Weighs In On Case...

Issue 1 Backers Tout Endorsements; Cordray Takes Credit For Wells Fargo Fine; Yuko Calls For Action On Guns...

Sheehy Calls For Further Action On Ag Runoff; OEC Proposes Toxic Chemical Protections

Ohio Lands \$26 Million In Federal Opioid Funding; Senators Applaud Disaster Request Approval...

Chamber Of Commerce Endorses Issue 1; P&G, Key, More Report Financial Results; Toledo Businesswoman Added To SBAC

Governor's Appointments

Supplemental Agency Calendar

CALENDARS

Day Planner

Event Planner

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Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, April 21- Monday, April 23

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

Monday, April 23

Controlling Board, North Hearing Rm., Senate Bldg., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.
Human Trafficking Commission, 18th Fl., 150 E. Gay St., Columbus, 2 p.m.

Event Planner

Saturday, April 21

**YMCA Youth & Government High School State Assembly 2, Statehouse,
Columbus**

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Volume #87, Report #77 -- Friday, April 20, 2018

Energy Standards Bill Timeline Unclear As Another Wind Setback Proposal Is Introduced

Senate President Larry Obhof this week referred to ongoing talks over the state's energy standards and wind turbine setback revisions as "a long-term project."

The remark lends further uncertainty to the timeline in which Senate Republicans hope to roll out a substitute bill on a measure (HB 114) that in its current form waters down the state's renewable and energy efficiency benchmarks.

Earlier this month, Sen. Obhof had predicted a sub bill could be ready "in the next few weeks." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 6, 2018)

But asked this week about the Senate's priorities in the coming weeks, Sen. Obhof (R-Medina) said: "We've talked a number of times about energy, and particularly 114 probably now is a long-term project."

Sen. Obhof had previously labeled the measure a priority for the first part of the year but the timeline has been pushed back at every juncture as lawmakers grappled with a congressional redistricting ballot issue (SJR 5), the capital budget (HB 529) and other pressing proposals.

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) and Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) are spearheading talks on that sub bill but have said the timeline and the extent of the changes to the legislation remain unclear. The caucus has yet to reach a consensus on the plan the senators presented behind closed doors last month. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 23, 2018)

Changes to loosen the state's setbacks for wind turbines are expected to be a component of the sub bill and advocates have continued pressing lawmakers in recent weeks to walk back restrictions put in place in a 2014. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 12, 2018)

Rep. Fred Strahorn (D-Dayton) on Tuesday introduced his own standalone measure to reduce setbacks (HB 604). His plan joins several other legislative efforts to accomplish that feat, including proposals from Sen. Matt Dolan (SB 238) and Sen. Michael Skindell (SB 184).

The minority leader's proposal would require turbines to be no closer than 1,125 feet from the tip of a turbine to the exterior of the nearest habitable residential structure. Current law, in contrast, measures the distance from the structure's property line.

The measure would also make permanent tax exemptions for tangible personal property of a qualified energy project using renewable energy resources under certain conditions.

Trish Demeter, the Ohio Environmental Council's vice president of energy policy, welcomed the latest attempt.

"I applaud Leader Fred Strahorn for proposing HB604 - a bill which if passed, would pave the way for full scale wind development in Ohio," Ms. Demeter said.

"For too long, Ohioans have missed out on trends towards wind energy due to unnecessarily large setbacks from property lines. Fixing the wind setback issue is critical for further development of wind energy across the state, and bringing Ohio up to speed in the growing clean energy economy."

State Unemployment Drops To Lowest Level In More Than 16 Years

Ohio's unemployment rate dropped a notch to 4.4% in March, maintaining a positive trend of recent months and reflecting the best report since August 2001, according to the Department of Job and Family Services.

The March rate was a drop from 4.5% in February 2018, the agency reported. Total employment increased 10,800 over the month to 5,579,200, and the number of unemployed was down 9,000 to 253,000.

The unemployment total has dropped by 40,000 since March 2017, when the rate was 5.1%, and the state has seen an increase of 54,400 jobs during that period, according to state data compiled in conjunction with the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"Another strong jobs report out today," Gov. John Kasich stated on his Twitter account. His statement was accompanied by a GIF of actor Chuck Norris giving a thumbs-up.

"Since 2011, Ohioans have created 501,000 new private sector jobs, and unemployment is the best it's been since 2001," Mr. Kasich said. "We've come a long way since 2010. Let's keep it going, Ohio!"

Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said the number of new private jobs reflected an important milestone for the state. The positive news shows the GOP-run legislature's policies are working, he said.

"We work diligently to not only create an environment of possibilities for Ohio's job creators but also to ensure Ohioans from all backgrounds are prepared to take advantage of those opportunities," Sen. Obhof said in a release.

"We've done this through creating a jobs-friendly business environment, developing a jobs-ready workforce and empowering Ohio's small businesses, the backbone of our economy. While this is an important milestone that shows Ohio's policies are working, we have much more to do, and we will continue to build on this progress."

Despite the recent gains, Ohio still lags the nation, as the U.S. unemployment rate for March was 4.1%. That figure was unchanged from February and down from 4.5% in March 2017.

During a month when most sectors saw job gains, the best performers were the private service-providing sector, which added 5,700 positions, as well as trade, transportation, and utilities (+3,400). ODJFS noted the most significant losses in information (-700) and other services (-500).

Agency spokesman Bret Crow said eight industries or sub-sectors experienced record-high employment levels. They are: transportation, warehousing and utilities; finance and insurance; educational and health services; educational services; health care and social assistance; leisure and hospitality; accommodation and food services; and state government.

The March gains in the construction industry, which was up 1,200 jobs, represented the third consecutive month of steady job growth in the sector, which has gained 5,700 jobs over the last year, Mr. Crow said.

In addition, the state versus federal comparison on job growth favored Ohio, as the state added jobs at a rate that was more than double the national rate, or 0.19% versus 0.07%, he said. And the average weekly earnings for Ohioans is up \$3.14 compared to last month and \$28.45 compared to last year, both outperforming the national rate.

"It's an across-the-board positive report with lower unemployment and new job growth that doubled the nation's," Mr. Crow said.

Andrew J. Kidd, senior economist with the Economic Research Center at The Buckeye Institute, said the latest jobs report shows "Ohio's job market is allowing individuals who desire jobs to get jobs."

"However, Ohio has yet to reach the national unemployment rate of 4.1%, he added. "This, as well as a labor force participation rate lower than the national average, shows that Ohio still has work to do. The right reforms, such as closing tax loopholes and removing unnecessary barriers to employment through occupational licensing, would create opportunities for sustained job growth."

"Ohio in 2018 has experienced positive job growth. Yet, another month of an unchanged labor force participation rate once again implies that some individuals are still not searching for jobs," Mr. Kidd added.

Hannah Halbert, researcher with Policy Matters Ohio, said the state has gained more jobs in the first three months of 2018 than in all of 2017.

"While labor force participation suggests there is still room for improvement, Ohio's labor market is finally tightening," she said. "Even so, many jobs pay too little and offer too-few hours, making it nearly impossible to afford basics like food and health care without

public support. Raising the minimum wage, restoring the 40-hour work week, and supporting paid leave would make the most of this tighter labor market and help rebuild a path to the middle class."

Ms. Halbert said Ohio continues to underperform the nation's 12-month rate for job growth and has "vastly underperformed" the rest of the U.S. since the 2005 tax overhaul was enacted.

"Ohio is not out of the woods. A bad month or two could erase this streak and more months of solid growth are needed to take up the remaining slack in our labor market," she said.

Senator Backing Medical Marijuana Audit Bill Supports Review By Commerce Department

A senator who sponsored legislation to require an audit of the medical marijuana licensing process said he's supportive of efforts by the Department of Commerce to perform its own review.

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) introduced a proposal (SB 264) in February to require a state auditor investigation of DOC's awarding of provisional licenses for medical marijuana growers, including a set timeframe for the review and the awarding of certificates of operation.

It was intended to remove any clouds of suspicion or impropriety from the licensing process, the sponsor said. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 22, 2018)

That measure had its first hearing this week in the Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 17, 2018)

Since February, DOC and other agencies involved in the medical marijuana program have worked to tamp down expectations for the initiative's Sept. 8 go-live date, saying it's unlikely all license recipients will be operational by then. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 5, 2018)

The agency worked with an attorney general-appointed special counsel to hire a third-party auditor to review the scoring and find possible improvements. The department reported Friday that Ernst & Young was retained for the work, which does not have a set deadline for completion but is expected to take "a matter of weeks" to finish.

Sen. Coley complimented the department on that effort and said the goal of his legislation is simply to ensure the state has a fair process.

"You could easily argue that they're already doing those things," he said in an interview. "I want to make sure it gets done and it gets followed through."

He encouraged the department to work with the auditor's office to ensure the process is thoroughly reviewed.

"I support Commerce going through and looking at the whole thing, re-scoring if necessary and awarding additional licenses if warranted," he said. "I think that's all a good thing and it would be for the benefit of all patients and the state of Ohio."

Sen. Coley said he's confident the department will correct any issues.

"I think they realize that some mistakes were made and they want to correct them," he said.

DOC will go before the Controlling Board Monday to request more than \$5 million for staffing, legal costs and other expenses for the medical marijuana program. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 16, 2018)

High Court To Hear Traffic Camera Case

The battle over automated traffic cameras will continue next week with the latest front being the Ohio Supreme Court.

The city of Toledo and the state are at odds over a previous budget (HB64, 131st General Assembly) provision that allows the state to reduce Local Government Fund distributions for non-compliance with traffic camera restrictions (SB342, 130th General Assembly), some of which were struck down by the high court. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 26, 2017)

Ten days prior to the traffic camera restrictions becoming law, the city asked for and received an injunction from the Lucas County Common Pleas Court, the high court reported.

Lawmakers then passed the biennial budget containing the LGF reduction provisions. The city again asked for and received an injunction from the trial court, which found the state would be in contempt if it withheld funding from cities based on non-compliance with a law found to be unconstitutional.

The Sixth District Court of Appeals upheld the ruling, leading to the state appeal to the high court, where it argues the budget provision is a reporting requirement and a formula for discretionary spending. (Docket)

"Toledo has no 'home rule' right to receive money from the General Assembly," the state writes in a brief. "It is not 'losing' money that it has, but rather choosing to give up money in order to run its traffic-camera program as it sees fit."

The state also contends that the city should have been required to file a separate lawsuit in the matter and that the injunction is a violation of separation of powers.

"The Sixth District's holding invades the legislative power and exceeds the judicial power because courts do not have roving license to enjoin legislation," the state argues. "Courts must instead draw the power to block legislation from specific constitutional prohibitions."

The city, however, claims that lawmakers are seeking to coerce compliance with unconstitutional laws.

It also argues that the state is the guilty party when it comes to the violation of separation of powers.

"If the General Assembly could simply ignore the judicial branch any time legislation is struck by withholding funds to those entities that do not comply with the unconstitutional legislative acts, then there is no separation of powers because the legislature would reign supreme," the city writes in its brief.

"This type of legislation is not a 'new' law that merits a separate lawsuit and separate constitutional analysis, but moreover an affront to the authority of the judiciary. The Penalty Provisions try to avoid judicial control by reenacting unconstitutional laws."

The case is slated for oral arguments as another measure (HB 410) authored by the primary sponsor of the 2014 law works its way through the General Assembly.

Rep. Bill Seitz's (R-Cincinnati) legislation would eliminate the use of administrative hearings when a civil citation is issued for a traffic violation recorded by a photo-monitoring device and require local governments that use traffic-monitoring devices to annually file a report with the tax commissioner detailing how much revenue is generated from their use which will then be subtracted from the LGF distribution.

The court will hear three other cases next week:

- In *State v. Dunson*, a Montgomery County man convicted of murder and aggravated robbery will ask the justices to set aside \$6,199 in court costs.
- The court in *East Manufacturing v. Testa* will determine if a Portage County company is eligible for a use tax exemption for the purchase of natural gas it uses to heat six buildings where aluminum truck trailers are constructed.
- A bank will argue that despite federal rules requiring a face-to-face meeting with a borrower after three missed mortgage payments prior to proceeding with a foreclosure it should be allowed to move forward because the meeting occurred during court-ordered mediation after the second attempt to foreclose in the case of *Wells Fargo Bank v. Burd*.

Candidates Stress Experience In House District 26 Primary

A Columbus City School Board member and a law clerk with a background in youth advocacy each say their breadth of experience make them the ideal candidates for the 26th House District.

The Democrat-leaning district is currently represented by Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus), whose bid for the Senate is opening the path for a new face. Michael Cole, 45, and Erica Crawley, 37, are both working to secure the Democratic nomination, after which the victor will likely face Republican Shareeque Sadiq in November.

Mr. Cole said he has a track record of "having gotten things done in the most tough circumstances" thanks to his two terms on the school board.

"It's one thing when the whole deck's lined up for you and you're accomplishing some things of the work and will of people," he said. "It's another to have every kind of almost insurmountable obstacle against you whether it's state, federal, local discontent for something and still move the needle of achievement."

Ms. Crawley, while touting her own experience, credits her desire to enter public office to her great aunt who in 2007, shortly before her death, asked her during a conversation on political leaders, "Why not you?"

"She was never elected, never interested in politics per se, but she gave her time," Ms. Crawley said. "She spent a lot of time with the church, with homeless families. She never met an enemy. People loved my aunt and she loved people. I would hope she would be proud of me if I could be half the woman she was and make the impact she made."

Mr. Cole is originally from Cleveland but first came to Columbus as a student at Ohio State University. "This city kind of had me at hello," he said.

He picked up a master's degree in communication at Seton Hall University and then chose to return to Columbus where he sought out service opportunities including a five-year stint as area commissioner in Westgate.

"The opportunity and potential that this city offers I think is tremendous," Mr. Cole said. "I think it was almost a spiritual calling to end up in this city."

He said he worked on neighborhood safety and beautification issues, before segueing into politics and hosting a public affairs radio show. He was first elected to the school board in 2013 and reelected last year. He's currently vice president of the board, which is dominated by Democrats.

"I came with the mindset of working to ensure and strengthen accountability, curriculum, transparency and safety in the district," Mr. Cole said. "I'm committed to bringing that same mindset to the Statehouse."

Even though it contains solely Democrats, he said, the school board has taught him valuable lessons.

"Even if everyone's on the same page from the politics standpoint everyone brings different points of view, skills, knowledge and attitude," Mr. Cole said. "Working among a body politic making decisions and brokering decisions...on matters that effect people is something I've tremendously learned from this experience."

Ms. Crawley is also a transplant, hailing originally from Youngstown. She spent 2000-2003 serving in the United States Navy in Virginia. After giving birth to twin girls - Hope and Faith, who are now 13 - she moved to Cleveland where she finished her college degree in criminology with a focus on juvenile delinquency.

Next was a stint in Atlanta where she received her masters and had an array of jobs centered on supporting youth including work for the Black Child Development Institute and the Court Appointed Special Advocate program.

She returned to Columbus where she attended Capital University Law School, graduating in 2017 with a concentration in civil litigation. Following that, she clerked for Honda North America and since 2016 has clerked for Eastman and Smith's Columbus office.

Both candidates list education as a central plank of their platforms. For Ms. Crawley that means ensuring equal access to quality education.

"I am an advocate for universal Pre-K," she said. "But also making sure all of our children have the same opportunities. Addressing school funding and school resources definitely plays a part."

She said she also wants to expand trade school options for young students and to focus on economic development.

"Especially in the 26th District there is disinvestment and underinvestment in that community," she said. "I would love to focus on micro-business and small businesses and making sure my neighbors have access to those resources."

She added she'd press for equal access in other areas, such as healthcare, including addiction and mental health support services.

"With that, making sure our aging population has the services they need," Ms. Crawley added. "There are a lot of grandparents taking care of their grandchildren and they don't have the resources necessary to do that effectively."

On the education front, Mr. Cole said he wants to restore consistency, including possibly by requiring five-year curriculum plans. He likened his experience on the board to being Harry Houdini locked in a box with the key inside as he's thrown over Niagara Falls.

"I find out a lot of what confines public schools period...is they are all boxed in by state laws that don't take consideration to how certain things affect us," he said. "From funding to property taxes to education and curriculum and how important it is to make sure it's steady, consistent."

In other areas, Mr. Cole said he wants to alleviate property tax burdens and create more opportunities for mixed income housing.

"I think there are any number of ways we can look at funding public education that doesn't solely fall on the backs of property owners, particularly in poor communities," he said. "I think we can do some income tax sharing. ... I think there are some win-wins. We just have to turn over some stones."

Ms. Crawley said she's the candidate voters should turn to if they seek experience thanks to a career and life experience span the spectrum from nonprofit to for-profit, military and civilian.

"I've had a commitment to being of service to others," she said. "If you look at my career either professionally or in volunteerism...I have always had a commitment to making a difference in the communities in which I lived and making a difference especially for individuals who come from poverty or low-income families."

Mr. Cole and his wife Lee have three children, ages 21, 15 and 14. He is a substitute social studies teacher who enjoys motorcycles and muscle cars.

In addition to spending time with her daughters, Ms. Crawley said she collects books, particularly of the professional development variety or autobiographies.

Subscribers Note: This story is part of a series focusing on key primary races for Ohio legislative seats. See Gongwer's Election Page for more information on 2018 contests, including our Key Races.

OPA: Pharmacists Can Serve As Educators In Opioid Struggle

From asking customers to question potentially counterfeit pills to teaching them how to dissolve old medication in cat litter or coffee grounds, Ohio's pharmacists have a key role in fighting the state's opioid epidemic.

That was the message from officials with the Ohio Pharmacists Association to the nearly 1,000 pharmacists and students who attended the group's 140th annual conference and trade show Friday at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

Ernie Boyd, executive director of the OPA, said pharmacists and the public need to "keep the pressure on" to get patients to request other medications and medical professionals to write fewer prescriptions for opioids.

Mr. Boyd said over-the-counter drugs can be a fine alternative to prescription opiates. He said he thinks it was a "major mistake" to allow ibuprofen and other anti-inflammatory or pain-relief medication to be sold without a prescription.

"In the public's mind, (ibuprofen) is as innocuous as cheese or rutabaga because it's sold next to those products," he said. "I think that's insane. These are very potent drugs."

The public tends to believe prescription drugs inherently are more effective and over-the-counter drugs safer, Mr. Boyd said, adding that's not always the case.

The convention included a demonstration of multiple ways people can dispose of old or unneeded medication, from using specialty kits to mixing it with water and coffee grounds or cat litter to make it unpalatable to animals and children. Mr. Boyd said pharmacists can explain the importance and methods of disposal and serve on local drug task forces to assist in the opiate fight.

The group also advised pharmacists to explain the importance of avoiding medication from potentially dubious sources, whether it be an acquaintance or an online retailer.

"The large majority of internet sites are (fraudulent)," Mr. Boyd said. "Ninety-eight percent of the online pharmacies are not pharmacies at all. They're fake."

He said counterfeit pills may look virtually indistinguishable from pills produced by the actual manufacturer and could include powerful opioids such as fentanyl and carfentanil. The consequences of consuming the bootleg drugs range from addiction to death.

Dr. Michael Ybarra, deputy vice president of advocacy and strategic alliances at PhRMA, said the public needs to get medicine from a trustworthy source. He said buying from "rogue online pharmacies" can be a dangerous move.

"The safest thing to do is to buy at a pharmacy," he said. "The U.S. distribution system is totally closed (with) FDA inspected facilities."

Mr. Boyd said there are some legitimate online pharmacy sites, which typically feature the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy's Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites logo and have a pharmacy domain names.

The most important advice for members of the public, Mr. Boyd said, might simply be to stop using medication that was not prescribed to them.

"You just don't share any of the stuff, period," he said."

Medical Pot Program Halt Rejected; Complaint Against DeWine Dismissed; No New Trial For Beck; Buckeye Institute Weighs In On Case...

A Franklin County judge on Friday declined to put the state's medical marijuana program on hold.

Instead, Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge Richard Frye will consider the matter again at a May 11 hearing.

"We're pleased that there's been a decision not to pause the program," said Thomas Rosenberger, a spokesman for the National Cannabis Industry Association of Ohio.

The Friday hearing was a result of a lawsuit filed by Ohio Releaf LLC, which was denied a cultivator's license and subsequently sued the Department of Commerce for what it alleges is a failure to comply with public record laws and to hold a timely administrative appeal hearing.

DOC has hired an independent auditor to review its processes. (*See separate story*)

Dismissed Complaint: A three-judge panel has dismissed one of four counts of allegedly violating canons of the Ohio Judicial Code of Conduct filed against Ohio Supreme Court Justice Patrick DeWine.

The count alleges that Justice DeWine asked Hamilton County Prosecutor Joe Deters, who had 48 cases pending before the court at the time the complaint was filed, to hire his son for an internship.

The remaining allegations involve Justice DeWine's father, Attorney General Mike DeWine. The complaint alleges Justice DeWine improperly failed to recuse himself from cases in which AG DeWine is named as a party and that he appears on his father's gubernatorial campaign web site.

Justice DeWine has denied all of the alleged charges.

New Trial: The nation's highest court has declined to order a new trial for a former state lawmaker.

The U.S. Supreme Court declined to grant the request of former Rep. Peter Beck for a new trial. The decision was issued without comment.

Mr. Beck in 2015 was found guilty of 13 charges and sentenced to serve four years in prison. However, a state appellate court in 2016 overturned 10 charges and Mr. Beck served just 16 months in prison.

Amicus Brief: The Buckeye Institute has filed an amicus brief with the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals asking it to strike down a Tennessee law it says discriminates against outdoor advertisements and signs with ideological messages.

The group said the law, which is designed to be in compliance with the Highway Beautification Act of 1965, is a violation of the First Amendment.

"While we all enjoy a scenic drive and beautiful roadways, the First Amendment is even more precious to Americans and its protections must not be violated in the name of highway beautification," President and CEO Robert Alt said in a statement. "Restricting the placement of outdoor advertisements solely based on the sign's message is a clear infringement of free speech and must be overturned."

Crew Dispute: Major League Soccer and the Precourt Sport Ventures, owner of the Columbus Crew, have asked the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas to dismiss a lawsuit designed to prevent the team from moving to Texas.

In a motion to dismiss, the groups call the Art Modell law "blatantly unconstitutional."

"The statute violates the dormant Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution because it both discriminates against out-of-state residents and impermissibly interferes with the defendants' abilities to conduct their business in interstate commerce," the filing reads.

The law requires the owner of an Ohio professional sports team that plans to cease playing most of its home games in the state to provide six months' notice in order to give others an opportunity to purchase the franchise

Disciplinary Cases: The Board of Professional Conduct on Friday announced that it has filed 10 disciplinary case reports with the high court.

Issue 1 Backers Tout Endorsements; Cordray Takes Credit For Wells Fargo Fine; Yuko Calls For Action On Guns...

The bipartisan Coalition for Redistricting Reform, the group backing Issue 1, on Friday announced a slew of endorsements for the ballot measure.

The endorsements include the Ohio AFL-CIO, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, the Ohio Council of Churches, the Ohio Education Association, the Ohio Environmental Council, the Ohio Farm Bureau and the NAACP Ohio Chapter.

Campaign advisor Keary McCarthy in a statement said the endorsements "truly signal the bipartisan nature of fixing the way we draw our congressional districts in Ohio."

"Our state lawmakers stepped up to make this bipartisan fix to a very partisan problem a reality, and I'm thrilled to see these powerful groups across Ohio come aboard," he added.

Wells Fargo: Richard Cordray on Friday weighed in on the news that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau fined Wells Fargo \$1 billion.

The bureau's former director in a statement sought to downplay the role that acting Director Mick Mulvaney played in issuing the fine.

"Mulvaney has brought no new enforcement actions since he has been at the CFPB," he said. "Investigations that take many months or even years, and that are just now being finalized, are due to the aggressive work my team did to bring predatory behavior to light. To suggest this is the work of Mulvaney, who has done nothing but throw sticks in the spokes of a talented, hard-working CFPB team of devoted public servants is preposterous."

Gun Legislation: Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Hts.) used the anniversary of the Columbine school shooting to call for legislation to reduce gun violence.

Sen. Yuko in a statement commended students who on Friday walked out of school to mark the 19th anniversary of the school shooting.

"Our young people have sent us a clear message: we need to act now to protect them. The Senate Democratic Caucus has introduced numerous common-sense proposals to address gun violence and help keep our kids safe. Many of these bills have yet to receive a hearing," he said.

"As a leader in the Ohio Senate, I know we have to do more to stop violence in our schools. Schools should be places where children worry about upcoming math tests, and not about active shooters."

Gun Rally: Three gun rights groups on Saturday will hold a "Patriot Day Rally" at the Statehouse.

The 11 a.m. event hosted by Ohioans for Concealed Carry, Ohio Carry and the Buckeye Firearms Association will feature historical information on the role of private gun ownership in the country's founding and immigrants who will talk about their experiences before and after coming to America, according to a release.

NFIB Endorsement: Rep. Larry Householder (R-Glenford), a speaker hopeful, has the backing of National Federation of Independent Business/Ohio in his reelection bid, the group announced Friday.

Roger Geiger in a statement said Rep. Householder "understands the issues important to Ohio entrepreneurs as demonstrated by his strong voting record with NFIB."

Sheehy Calls For Further Action On Ag Runoff; OEC Proposes Toxic Chemical Protections

Rep. Michael Sheehy (D-Oregon) criticized state leaders this week after a recent report showed more work is needed to curb the runoff of phosphorus and other nutrients into Ohio's waterways.

His remarks were centered on the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Nutrient Mass Balance Study. The report found "no clear decrease" in nutrient loading, especially from nonpoint sources like agricultural runoff. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 17, 2018)

Rep. Sheehy in a statement singled out farmers for their role in contributing to runoff that can fuel harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie.

"This new report shows that despite years of deceptive talking points from powerful industry representatives in Columbus, we know where all this excess phosphorus pollution has been coming from," Rep. Sheehy said.

"It's not complicated: if you are causing nearly 90% of a problem, you should participate in searching for a solution," he continued. "Instead, their lobbyists have prioritized fighting against policy solutions and even shifting the blame to urban centers that suffer the worst of these consequences."

The Ohio Farm Bureau previously said the report shows that agriculture must play a role in improving water quality. But a spokesman said new regulations aren't needed in the group's view.

Chemicals: The Ohio Environmental Council is requesting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency crack down on toxic chemicals.

The request comes in the form of a petition for rulemaking filed by the council seeking new protections against carcinogen perfluorooctanoic acid and other substances that can be pumped into water and air by manufactures.

"These companies need to stop emitting these chemicals before extensively studying them, and our proposed rules would stop this dangerous practice," said Chris Tavenor, an OEC law fellow.

Copies of the request were also submitted to President Donald Trump, Gov. John Kasich, Ohio EPA Director Craig Butler, Attorney General Mike DeWine and members of Ohio's congressional delegation.

Ohio Lands \$26 Million In Federal Opioid Funding; Senators Applaud Disaster Request Approval...

For the second consecutive year, Ohio is poised to receive a \$26 million funding infusion to buoy efforts to combat the opioid epidemic.

The funding announced this week comes from the 21st Century CURES Act passed in 2016. It's part of \$485 million in grants to be divvied up among states this year. Ohio received a similar amount of dollars under the program last year during the first round of funding. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 20, 2017)

"This is good news for Ohio, and these new funds will help our efforts to combat the heroin and prescription drug epidemic gripping our state," U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) said in a statement. "This is another positive step forward, but we must do more, and that's why I continue to push for common-sense solutions like the STOP Act and CARA 2.0 that will help us turn the tide of addiction in Ohio and around the country."

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland) likewise applauded word of the additional funding.

"For too long, Ohio communities have been desperate for the federal government to step up and provide the necessary resources to effectively combat the opioid epidemic," Sen. Brown said. "While we know there is more work to be done, this funding is a meaningful step forward for Ohio. It's important that the state work to get this funding out to local communities quickly as they continue to battle this epidemic."

The dollars are aimed at boosting evidence-based programs and are overseen by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Emergency: Sens. Brown and Portman also welcomed President Donald Trump's approval of Gov. John Kasich's request for disaster assistance following largescale flooding in February. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 17, 2018)

Sen. Brown said the declaration "will go a long way in helping reassure Ohio communities impacted by last month's devastating floods that they are not alone."

Sen. Portman said, "It will allow our affected communities to get much-needed federal assistance following this winter's terrible storms."

Wright-Patterson: Ohio delegates urged the Pentagon to pick the Dayton-area Air Force base to house the F-35 Hybrid Product Support Integrator Organization.

Wright-Patterson is "uniquely qualified" to handle that role, which could mean an additional 400 jobs, all of Ohio's senators and representatives wrote to Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson.

"Based on the criteria used during the strategic basing process, we believe WPAFB's workforce makes the base the logical location for HPSI," the lawmakers wrote. "The basing process specifically requires acquisition professionals who are Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act certified with tactical fighter support experience, and WPAFB's workforce of engineers, programs managers, logistics managers, and contracting personnel would provide HPSI with an exceptional staff."

Chamber Of Commerce Endorses Issue 1; P&G, Key, More Report Financial Results; Toledo Businesswoman Added To SBAC

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce has thrown its support behind a ballot issue aimed at reforming the state's redistricting guidelines.

The group's board of directors earlier this week voted to support Issue 1.

"The Ohio Chamber has long recognized the need for sensible changes to the redistricting process and we are pleased to join the bipartisan coalition supporting State Issue 1," President & CEO Andrew E. Doehrel said in a statement. "Job creators know the value of a fair and competitive playing field in the marketplace, and State Issue 1 will bring this element of necessary, healthy competition to congressional campaigns, as well."

Mr. Doehrel said the group twice in the past 15 years opposed redistricting efforts that "did not represent a consensus approach."

Procter & Gamble: The Cincinnati-based company saw net sales of \$16.3 billion in the third quarter, up by 4% from the previous year.

Organic sales increased 1% for the quarter ended March 31, P&G reported. Diluted net earnings per share were \$0.95, an increase of 2%.

Operating cash flow was \$3.4 billion for the quarter, while adjusted free cash flow productivity was 95%, according to the company.

P&G returned \$3.2 billion to shareholders via \$1.8 billion of dividend payments and \$1.4 billion of common stock repurchase.

"We delivered modest top- and bottom-line growth in a challenging macro environment in the third quarter," Chairman, President and CEO David Taylor said in a statement. "We have large businesses in several difficult markets. The ecosystems in which we operate around the world are being disrupted and transformed. We will change at an even faster rate -- winning through superiority, cost and cash productivity and a strengthened organization and culture."

KeyCorp: The Cleveland-based company reported. \$402 million in net income, or \$0.38 per common share, in the first quarter.

The financial services company reported net income of \$296 million over the same period in the previous year.

"First quarter was a good start to the year, with continuing momentum in our core businesses, as we grew and expanded relationships with our targeted clients," Chairman and CEO Beth Mooney said in a statement. "Revenue increased over 3% from the same period last year, driven by a higher net interest income, solid loan growth and stronger fee income."

First Financial: The Cincinnati-based bank reported net income of \$30.5 million, or \$0.49 per diluted common share, in the first quarter.

First financial reported net income of \$24.8 million, or \$0.40 per diluted common share, in the previous quarter.

"We are extremely pleased with our strong first quarter performance, representing our 110th consecutive quarter of profitability and top-quartile level returns," Executive Chairman Claude Davis said in a statement. "We are also excited about our recent merger with MainSource which closed on April 1st. We welcome our new colleagues from MainSource and together look forward to building an even stronger company going forward."

SBAC: Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor has appointed Jennifer Zalecki to the Small Business Advisory Council.

Ms. Zalecki serves as president and CEO of Toledo-based Battery Wholesale. The company, which Ms. Zalecki's father founded in 1983, operates seven retail stores in the greater Toledo area.

"Jennifer has been an effective small business advocate through her service to the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce and has demonstrated her high business acumen through the success of her own company," Lt. Gov. Taylor said.

Governor's Appointments

Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund Advisory Council: Kimpton E. Williams of Waynesville for a term beginning April 20, 2018, and ending January 31, 2021.

State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services: Capt. Kevin T. Uhl of Sycamore Township for a term beginning April 20, 2018, and ending November 12, 2019.

Public Benefits Advisory Board: Dasmine Wright of Columbus for a term beginning April 20, 2018, and ending June 30, 2018.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Monday, April 23

Human Trafficking Commission, 18th Fl., 150 E. Gay St., Columbus, 2 p.m.

Friday, April 27

Accountancy Board, 77 S. High St., Conference Room West B & C, 31st Floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

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Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Event Planner

Saturday, April 21

YMCA Youth & Government High School State Assembly 2, Statehouse, Columbus

Tuesday, April 24

OAHU Annual Day at the Statehouse, Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square, 75 East State Street, Columbus

Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Brenner for Ohio)

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) & Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Matt Huffman for Ohio and/or Friends of John Eklund)

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$3,700; Sponsor: \$1,370 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)

Ohio Chemistry Technology Council's 30th Annual Legislative Reception, Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel, 50 North Third Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m.

Ohio Aggregates and Industrial Minerals Association 20th Annual Legislative Reception, Statehouse Atrium, Columbus, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 25

American Heart Association/American Stroke Association Advocacy Day, Riffe Center, 77 S. High St., Davidson Theatre, Columbus

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) and Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for Bill Beagle and/or Citizens for Lehner)

Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton) & Sen. Frank Hoagland (R-Adena) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Checks to Oelslager for Ohio Committee and/or Hoagland for Ohio)

Rep. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) fundraiser, Valters at the Mannerchor, 976 S. High St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Host: \$1,000, Sponsor: \$500; Patron: \$250, Individual: \$75 to Committee for Jim Hughes)

Thursday, April 26

Deadline to file pre-primary campaign finance reports

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Vernon's Italian Ristorante, 720 Youngstown-Warren Road, Niles, 5 p.m., (Event Sponsor \$1500, Supporter \$1000,

Friend \$500, Table Sponsor \$300, Individual \$60 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes)

Rep. Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) fundraiser, Berry's Restaurant, 15 W. Main Street, Norwalk, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$250 to Nathan Manning for Ohio)

Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) fundraiser, Aloft Columbus Westerville, 32 Heatherdown Drive, Westerville, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$250 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)

Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) fundraiser, The Lincoln Caf~~e~~ 740 E. Long St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$250, \$100, \$50, \$25 to Friends of Hearcel F. Craig)

Tuesday, May 1

Lobbyists/Employers can begin filing January-April 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports

Wednesday, May 2

Pro-life Legislative Day

Thursday, May 3

Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Portage Country Club, 240 N. Portage Path, Akron, 5:30 p.m., (Chair: \$5,000 | Sponsor: \$2,500 | Host: \$1,000 | Guest: \$250 to Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)

Tuesday, May 8

Primary election day

Thursday, May 10

YMCA Youth & Government Model United Nations, Statehouse, Columbus

Friday, May 11

YMCA Youth & Government Model United Nations, Statehouse, Columbus

Saturday, May 12

YMCA Youth & Government Model United Nations, Statehouse, Columbus

Tuesday, May 15

Deadline for most public officials and employees to file personal financial disclosure statements.

Ohio Association of Health Plans Annual Legislative Reception, Statehouse Rotunda, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Please RSVP to Stacy Bewley at sbewley@oahp.org or for any questions call (614) 228-4662.)

Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake) & Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor Levels: Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Rogers and Committee to Elect John Patterson. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-429-9895 or jgravalis@ohiodems.org)

Wednesday, May 16

Ohio Auctioneers Association legislative day
Rep. Michele Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) fundraiser, Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Michele Lepore-Hagan for State Representative)
2018 Arts Day & Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio Luncheon, The Columbus Athenaeum, 32 North Fourth Street, Columbus, 12 p.m.

Tuesday, May 22

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Legislative Reception & Technology Demo, 77 S. High St., Capitol Theater Lobby, Columbus, 5 p.m.
Rep. David Leland (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Market 65, 65 East State Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Guest - \$250; Host - \$500; Sponsor - \$1,000; Gold Sponsor- \$2,500 to Friends of David Leland)

Wednesday, May 23

Rep. Kent Smith (D-Euclid) fundraiser, Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Kent Smith Committee)
Rep. John Becker (R-Union Township) fundraiser, Ringside, 19 N. Pearl St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Host: \$1000; Sponsor:\$500; Host:\$350 to Friends of Becker)
Rep. Doug Green (R-Mt. Orab) fundraiser, OHROC , 21 W Broad St. 7th Floor, Columbus, 4:30 p.m., (Host: \$1000; Sponsor: \$500; Host: \$350 to Committee to Elect Doug Green)

Thursday, May 24

Rep. Rick Perales (R-Beavercreek) golf outing fundraiser

Thursday, May 31

JLEC Deadline for filing January-April 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports

Friday, June 1

Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) & Rep. Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) golf outing fundraiser, Bob-O-Link Golf Course, 4141 Center Road (Rt. 83), Avon, 9:30 a.m., (9:30am Registration | 10:30am Shotgun Start | 3:30pm Appetizers and Awards; , Avon, Ohio 44011 Eagle Sponsor: \$1,500 | Birdie Sponsor: \$750 |

Foursome: \$400 | Hole Sponsor: \$200 | Individual Golfer: \$125 to Committee to Elect Gayle Manning and/or Nathan Manning for Ohio)

Monday, June 4

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) golf outing fundraiser, Crown Hill Golf Club, 9500 U.S. 22, Williamsport, 12 p.m., (12:00pm Lunch | 12:30pm Shotgun Start | 5:00pm Dinner. Tournament Sponsor \$2,000 | Eagle Sponsor: \$1,000 | Birdie Sponsor: \$500 | Hole Sponsor: \$200 | Individual Golfer: \$100 | Dinner Only: \$50 to Peterson for Good Government)

Friday, June 8

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) golf outing fundraiser

Monday, June 11

**Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) golf outing fundraiser
Ohio's 2018 Opiate Conference: Strengthening Ohio's Communities, Hyatt Regency, 350 N. High St., Columbus**

Tuesday, June 12

Ohio's 2018 Opiate Conference: Strengthening Ohio's Communities, Hyatt Regency, 350 N. High St., Columbus

Friday, June 15

Deadline to file post-primary campaign finance reports

Monday, June 18

Sen. President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) golf outing fundraiser

Monday, June 25

**Rep. Brian Hill (R-Zanesville) golf outing fundraiser
Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Golf Outing, The Lakes, 6740 Worthington Rd., Westerville**

Monday, July 16

Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) golf outing fundraiser

Thursday, July 19

Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) Batter Up fundraiser

Friday, July 20

Rep. Tom Patton (R-Strongsville) golf outing fundraiser

Sunday, July 22

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Monday, July 23

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Tuesday, July 24

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Wednesday, July 25

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus
Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) golf outing fundraiser

Thursday, July 26

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) golf outing fundraiser
YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Friday, July 27

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Tuesday, July 31

Deadline to file semi-annual campaign finance reports

Friday, August 3

Deadline for statewide candidates to file July campaign finance reports

Tuesday, August 7

Special election for 12th Congressional District seat

Thursday, August 16

Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) golf outing fundraiser

Monday, August 20

Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) golf outing fundraiser

Thursday, August 23

Hamilton County GOP State Legislative golf outing fundraiser

Saturday, September 1

Lobbyists/Employers can begin filing May-August 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports

Thursday, September 6

Deadline for statewide candidates to file August campaign finance reports

Monday, October 1

JLEC Deadline for filing May-August 2018 Activity & Expenditure Report

Wednesday, October 3

Deadline for statewide candidates to file September campaign finance reports

Thursday, October 25

Deadline to file pre-general campaign finance reports

Tuesday, November 6

General election day

Saturday, December 1

Lobbyists can begin renewing Legislative, Executive and Retirement System registrations for 2019

Friday, December 14

Deadline to file post-general campaign finance reports

Monday, December 31

All 2018 Legislative, Executive and Retirement System lobbying registrations expire in OLAC

Thursday, January 31

Deadline to 2018 annual campaign finance reports

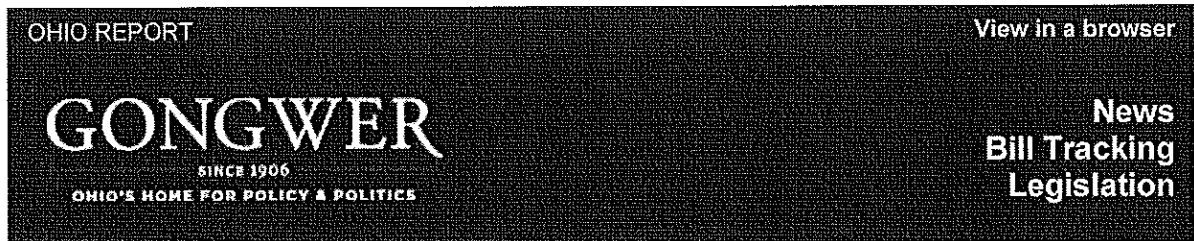
Deadline to 2018 annual campaign finance reports

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OHIO REPORT WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

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PUCO Approves Modified AEP Rate Settlement

House GOP To Vote May 15 On Next Speaker

Coal Group, Farm Bureau Urge Panel To Maintain Industry Tax Exemptions

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Space Embarks On Tour To Highlight Corruption; Cordray Launches New Ad; Yuko Gets SEIU Backing...

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Volume #87, Report #80 -- Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Senate Leader Points To Variety Of Proposals After Kasich Urges Gun Safety Bill Vote

Gov. John Kasich wants to see a set of gun safety proposals he is supporting come up for a vote, but one legislative leader said his chamber is working through several firearm-related issues.

The governor said Tuesday he hoped to see a vote on a proposal (HB 585 & SB 288) to make several changes to the state's gun laws. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 5, 2018)

Gov. Kasich pointed to the deadly shooting over the weekend at a Tennessee Waffle House restaurant, saying the state needs a "red flag" law to seize guns from people determined to be dangerous. That someone was able to stop the shooter while he reloaded also shows the need for limiting the capacity of magazines, the governor said.

The governor's proposals, particularly the "red flag" language creating extreme risk protection orders, have met pushback from some Republican legislators. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 10, 2018)

Gov. Kasich said he still expects the proposal to become law.

"We're going to get this package through," he said. "This is going to happen. It's not going to be easy to duck and run away and put your head in the sand. I will not let that happen. Maybe they can stop it, but it isn't going to be without a lot of people feeling a lot, a lot of pressure."

The governor said the gun safety proposal would likely pass if brought up for a vote.

"Bring it up and have a vote on it," he said. "We'll see where the votes are. Let's see where the majority of the caucus is. I guarantee you, you put this gun safety on the Senate floor, it passes. We need a vote."

Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said Wednesday he doesn't expect that exact proposal to come to the floor of his chamber, but that members are looking at several different items that could eventually pass.

"We have a very open process, we will look at a number of different changes related to firearms, some of which are in line with what the governor is looking at, some of which are longstanding problems that our caucus has felt we had a need to fix," he said.

The Senate leader pointed to legislation ranging from one sponsored by two Republicans to shift the burden of proof in self-defense cases, among other changes (SB 180), to proposals by Democrats to ban bump stocks (SB 219) and to create extreme risk protection orders (SB 278).

"Whether anything passes or whether a lot of it passes, we'll decide as a caucus," Sen. Obhof said.

The risk protection order measure, sponsored by Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman), is one where Sen. Obhof said he's spoken with the sponsor and with the National Rifle Association in an effort to work out differences.

"Everything's on the table," he said.

PUCO Approves Modified AEP Rate Settlement

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio's approval Wednesday of AEP Ohio's new rate plan sets the stage for what Chairman Asim Haque believes could be the state's longest period of rate stability in the last decade.

Mr. Haque made that assessment moments after the commission voted 4-0 to modify and approve a wide-ranging rate settlement agreement filed last year by AEP and 19 interested party groups. Commissioner Daniel Conway recused himself.

In addition to establishing rates until May 2024, the Electric Security Plan includes a \$21.1 million "Smart City Rider" to fund electric vehicle charging station development and microgrid investment.

If the commission later this year approves Duke Energy's own proposed settlement rate plan, rates would be stabilized for all four of Ohio's major electric utilities until the mid-2020s, Mr. Haque said.

"This decision represents stability for AEP customers," Mr. Haque said. "ESPs are big cases. They are time intensive and they are very litigious. To have stability in the AEP footprint...is a very good thing for AEP's current customers and for job creation in AEP's service territory."

The commission's order, which may still be appealed by opponents, has been years in the making.

AEP in 2016 filed its initial proposal but critics said that plan could pave the way for a 120% increase - from \$8.40 to \$18.40 a month - for affected customers. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 16, 2016)

The company filed a settlement agreement last year with 19 parties including the Ohio Manufacturers' Association, the Ohio Environmental Council, Industrial Energy Users-Ohio, the Natural Resources Defense Council to address those concerns. AEP has said

the stipulation would lead to a less than 50-cent increase in average monthly bills. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 28, 2017)

Julie Sloat, AEP Ohio president and chief operating officer, said in a statement the plan responds to consumer requests.

"Our customers want reliability and access to advanced technologies, such as EV charging stations, microgrids and renewable energy resources," she said.

"Our plan allows us to bring these services, which also will support economic development in Ohio, to customers across the state. The ESP enables us to continue our investments in the electric grid to provide reliable power and help advance the new technologies and cleaner energy that our customers want."

Dan Sawmiller, the NRDC's Ohio energy policy director, said one surprising modification made by the commission in its order is the removal of a provision that would have enabled AEP to push back that requested 120% increase until 2020.

Other wins from supporters' point of view is a \$10 million rebate program for electrical vehicle charging stations, \$10.5 million for microgrid projects, and regulatory tweaks clearing the way for 900 megawatts of clean energy in Appalachia, Mr. Sawmiller said.

"AEP's now going to be positioned to respond to the expectations of Ohio customers that have been pushing AEP to invest in more clean energy options for years," Mr. Sawmiller said. "On top of that there are some pilot programs in the stipulation and the data and the insight we're going to gain...create the groundwork for a lot of forward-looking progress."

The agreement still has its detractors, including the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, which has argued the deal lacks specifics on customer costs and that the "Smart City Rider" should have been tackled through a separate rate case. The OCC last month petitioned the PUCO to reopen the case to enable further debate. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 2, 2018)

"With the PUCO's approval of AEP's electric security plan today, the trend of charging Ohioans to subsidize outdated and non-competitive power plants continues," OCC spokeswoman Molly McGuire said. "And AEP's plan will also leave consumers paying subsidies for electric vehicle charging, microgrids, large customers (interruptible rates), automakers (bill credits), and possibly renewable energy."

The OCC has continued to press lawmakers to pass a bill (HB 247) banning Electric Security Plans, which it says deprive consumers of the benefits of competitive markets.

But in its order the PUCO determined that the ESP is "more favorable in the aggregate" than a market rate offer, which is the statutory guideline by which the commission evaluates ESPs.

"The ESP proposed in the stipulation affords customers in AEP Ohio's service territory numerous benefits and advances many of the state policy objectives enumerated in (Ohio Revised Code)," the PUCO's order reads.

Commissioner Lawrence Friedeman issued a concurring opinion elaborating on the aforementioned statutory provision - O.R.C. 4928.02 (C) - which establishes state policy as promoting customer choice, encouraging innovation and facilitating the development of the competitive retail electric market through flexible regulatory treatment.

Mr. Friedeman opined that market distortions resulting from cost imbalances might undermine that code section and that those distortions may "erect market barriers which have the tendency not to promote retail competition but rather to have an anti-competitive impact or in an extreme eventuality to re-monopolize the retail market inconsistent with enunciated state policy."

House GOP To Vote May 15 On Next Speaker

House Republicans will vote next month to choose the next speaker, and it is likely that the results of primary elections will influence who gets the gavel.

The majority caucus will vote at noon Tuesday, May 15, to choose its next leader, Speaker Pro Tem Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) said in a memo to members.

The special caucus will only consider votes for a new speaker to fill out the remainder of the year, not any other leadership positions, Rep. Schuring said.

The new speaker will replace Cliff Rosenberger, who resigned earlier this month amid an investigation by the FBI. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 12, 2018)

The speaker's race for the rest of the year could come down to the two candidates who have already been running for the job next year: Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) and Rep. Larry Householder (R-Glenford). Another possibility is that the caucus will select a placeholder speaker to finish out the year, and Rep. Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marysville), who is term-limited, has expressed interest in that role.

Rep. Smith has said he's confident he can win the speaker's chair when a vote is called. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 13, 2018)

He and Rep. Householder have both been supporting candidates in primary races in an effort to secure a majority in the next General Assembly. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 30, 2018)

If the race comes down to Rep. Smith and Rep. Householder, a likely factor in the race will be the results of the primary election, to be held a week before the speaker vote.

The caucus could also choose a placeholder speaker, likely a term-limited member. Rep. Pelanda said she has discussed the possibility that she run to finish out the rest of

the year. Unlike the other hopefuls, she would be able to do so without the distraction of running in another election.

"I truly believe that it's in the best interest of the members of the Ohio House of Representatives that we have an interim leader to finish out the business of the 132nd General Assembly," she said in an interview.

She said she has not aligned herself with either of the other speaker candidates and said she has had "thoughtful, encouraging" conversations with fellow members about running.

"We've got three weeks until the election and the members will continue to be thoughtful about what is in the best interest going forward for this assembly," she said.

Coal Group, Farm Bureau Urge Panel To Maintain Industry Tax Exemptions

Existing tax breaks supporting the coal and agriculture sectors should be preserved, stakeholder groups told the Tax Expenditure Review Committee Wednesday.

The Ohio Coal Association and the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation were among a handful of interested groups arguing in favor of continuing certain tax exemptions as the panel considers whether to preserve or scrap them. (Testimony)

Their arguments are essentially the same - that their respective industries are experiencing trying times and therefore need all the assistance they can get.

OCA President Mike Cope said the coal industry is just now beginning to recover from the "relentless war on coal" waged by the Obama Administration.

"Any tax levied on the purchase of new equipment would be devastating to our recovering industry," Mr. Cope said. "State policy that could increase the cost of coal mining could translate into higher electricity bills for Ohio's consumers."

The tax credit Mr. Cope was referring to exempts tangible personal property used directly in mining. Memos from the Department of Taxation estimate that the break costs the General Revenue Fund \$73.4 million in Fiscal Year 2018 and \$74.3 million in FY 2019. (ODT Analyses)

The Farm Bureau, meanwhile, lobbied for the continuation of credits pertaining to tangible personal property used in agriculture and for the sales and installation of agricultural land tile and portable grain bins.

The former credit lowered GRF revenues by \$331.1 million and \$339.4 million in FY 2018 and 2019, ODT reported. The tile and grain bin concession has a smaller impact at just over \$1 million in each of those years.

"The application of sales tax to input costs of a capital intensive, low profit industry such as agriculture would have significant and severe consequences," said Tony Seegers, the group's director of state policy. "Farm Bureau strongly believes the sales tax exemption must be preserved."

If lawmakers did away with those tax credits, Mr. Seegers said, the higher costs wouldn't immediately be passed onto consumers through costs. Instead, he said farmers themselves would be forced to swallow the change.

"Because prices are dictated by commodity exchanges and global demand, increased costs associated with applying sales tax to inputs will largely be eaten by farmers," he said. "Considering the profit margins we operate on, one can't help to think this would very likely drive some farmers out of business."

The Ohio Council of Retail Merchants submitted written testimony defending an exemption for tangible personal property used in storing, preparing and serving food. ODT estimates a GRF impact of about \$34 million each fiscal year for the biennium due to that exemption.

"This exemption is vital to retailers engaged in providing food products to the general public, as well as to the public served by those retailers who benefit from lower prices as a result," the council argued.

Two other exemptions were on Wednesday's agenda but received no public feedback. They included sales of tangible personal property and services to electricity providers, and TPP used to produce printed materials. In Fiscal Years 2018-2019, those exemptions were expected to cost the GRF \$699.9 million and \$19.7 million respectively, according to ODT.

Wednesday's was the third overall meeting of the committee, which is tasked with reviewing all of Ohio's tax credits over the next eight years. The committee will meet again May 9 to discuss the remaining handful of sales and use tax breaks.

Chairman Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton) said he anticipates the May meeting to be the committee's last this spring. The sales and use exemptions examined during the committee's meetings this year will form the basis of its first report this summer, he said.

"I think we're progressing in a manner that will help us make some decisions down the road and hopefully educate the people of Ohio who are watching," Sen. Oelslager said of the committee's work thus far.

The committee is expected to begin reviewing other exemptions heading into 2019 and has eight years to fully review all \$9 billion-plus a year Ohio's tax credits. The panel has already looked at manufacturing, packaging and a handful of other exemptions. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 11, 2018)

In general testimony, Zach Schiller, research director for Policy Matters Ohio, told members the legislature should appropriate funding for staff to undertake a more detailed analysis of the genesis of specific credits and how they have been broadened over time.

He also bemoaned that even as the committee continues its review lawmakers are still proposing and considering new tax exemptions through legislation.

"Adding new special-interest breaks is ill-conceived when this committee has barely started looking at the tax exemptions and credits we have now," Mr. Schiller said. "When the General Assembly thinks about giving away tens of millions for new business tax breaks, it should consider whether we have the money to pay for them, and whether the funds would be better spent educating young Ohioans, cutting our high infant-mortality rate, or fighting the opioid epidemic."

Supreme Court Keeps In Place Rulings On Transfer Agreement, Autopsies

The Ohio Supreme Court on Wednesday denied several motions for reconsideration, including in two high-profile cases involving abortion and public records.

In one case, the court declined to reconsider its February ruling that found the Department of Health was justified in revoking the operating license of a Toledo abortion clinic for lack of a written transfer agreement with a "local" hospital.

In the ruling, the court found that Capital Care Network of Toledo violated state administrative code by inking a written transfer agreement with an Ann Arbor hospital, which the ODH deemed to not be local. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 6, 2018)

Ohio Right to Life President Mike Gonidakis called on the state to revoke the license of Toledo's only abortion clinic.

"Capital Care Network owes an enormous fine of \$40,000 to the state of Ohio, based upon repeated violations of state law," he said. "The original Ohio Department of Health order remains in effect and in order to reopen, this abortion facility must reapply for a license and pay its fine before aborting anymore children."

However, in a statement of its own NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio called on the ODH to immediately reinstate the license for the clinic.

"This morning, a woman in Toledo woke up with the knowledge that she needed an abortion," Executive Director Kellie Copeland said. "There is a clinic in her community that can offer her safe and professional care. That clinic has met all state requirements to provide abortion services. John Kasich and Mike DeWine are standing in between that woman and this clinic, and they are violating her rights as they do so."

Shortly after the court's original decision, the clinic lined up a last-minute transfer agreement with ProMedica.

The court also declined to reconsider its December decision in which it ruled against two newspapers that sought to compel the release of the final, un-redacted autopsy reports of eight individuals murdered in a single night in April 2016 in a Pike County case that is still unsolved.

The divided court in a 4-3 decision found the records requested by the *Cincinnati Enquirer* and the *Columbus Dispatch* fall under the confidential law enforcement investigatory records exemption. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 14, 2017)

The newspapers had argued that under the law final autopsy reports do not qualify for the CLEIR exemption because a coroner is not a law enforcement official.

Justice Terrence O'Donnell and Justice Sharon Kennedy dissented with the ruling on the motion to reconsider.

In a less high-profile case, the court also declined to reconsider its decision not to accept jurisdiction in a case in which a commercial fishing operation alleged that the state's administrative code defining Lake Erie yellow perch management units is unconstitutionally vague. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 14, 2017)

High Court Clarifies Appellate Review Of Arbitration Appeals

When an appellate court reviews a lower court ruling on an arbitration decision it should conduct an independent review of the legal claims made on appeal, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled Wednesday.

In a unanimous decision authored by Justice Terrence O'Donnell, the high court determined appellate courts should accept findings of fact by trial courts that are not clearly made in error while reviewing the legal questions raised on appeal.

"When reviewing a trial court's decision to confirm, modify, vacate, or correct an arbitration award, an appellate court should accept findings of fact that are not clearly erroneous but should review questions of law de novo," Justice O'Donnell ruled.

The case stems from a dispute between the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities and one of its employees, the high court reported.

Patricia Byttner was hired to serve as an account clerk for the board with the understanding she would fill the role of a bus driver or bus aide in emergency situations.

After her hiring, Ms. Byttner refused a bus aide assignment, citing a pending knee surgery.

Two months later, the board amended her job description, leading to the union representing her to file a grievance. An arbitrator sided with Ms. Byttner and the union.

The board then successfully asked the Portage County Court of Common Pleas to vacate the ruling.

The union challenged the trial court decision at the Eleventh District Court of Appeals, which reinstated the arbitrator's decision.

However, the decision conflicted with other appellate court rulings, leading the case to the high court.

"In conformity with our resolution of the certified question, we recognize that the court of appeals conducted a proper de novo review of the trial court's decision in this case vacating the arbitration award, reversed its decision, reinstated the arbitration award, and therefore we affirm its judgment," Justice O'Donnell wrote for the court.

In his decision, Justice O'Donnell noted that nine of the state's appellate courts applied a de novo review while three applied an "abuse of discretion" review.

Tenth District Court of Appeals Judge Lisa Sadler sat in on the case for former Justice Bill O'Neill.

Cordray Campaign Pledges To Protect, Expand Veterans Benefits

Lieutenant governor candidate Betty Sutton on Wednesday unveiled her campaign's plan to safeguard health care benefits and create new employment protections for the state's servicemembers and veterans.

Ms. Sutton, the Democratic running mate of Rich Cordray, and former gubernatorial candidate Connie Pillich unveiled the campaign's policies regarding members of the armed forces at a press conference at the Statehouse Veterans Plaza.

The former congresswoman said the state has not done enough to support the men and women who are serving or have served in the military. She said enhancing services for veterans and better connecting them with existing resources would be a "top priority" in Cordray's administration.

"Too often our respect and admiration simply hasn't been matched by tangible action to help our veterans and servicemembers," she said.

The campaign's plan calls for the state to better fund county veterans services commissions to help them assist veterans making medical claims, offer incentives for employees who hire veterans with mild traumatic brain injuries, and protect the state's expansion of Medicaid for veterans who do not qualify for VA benefits.

Ms. Pillich, the head of the campaign's veterans policy team, said the "No. 1 concern" among veterans she has talked to throughout the state is health care. She said the Cordray campaign's plan would safeguard and expand important resources for servicemembers.

"Ohio veterans need much more than a specialty license plate," she said.

The former Ohio House member and U.S. Air Force veteran said the campaign also is proposing to include a box for veterans to check on state tax returns to allow the governor's office to identify them and connect them with available resources.

The plan also suggests the state protect the jobs of Army National Guard members who have been activated and allow spouses who lose their jobs because of a servicemember's transfer to collect unemployment benefits.

Ms. Sutton said she and her running mate also would make it a priority to take combat "predatory lenders" who target veterans.

"I can think of no leader with stronger credentials to do that than Rich Cordray," she said, citing her running mate's tenure as head of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Ms. Sutton, who previously served on the U.S. House Armed Services Committee, also pointed to Mr. Cordray's work on a successful 2009 ballot issue to authorize bonuses for veterans of conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Persian Gulf as evidence of his support for servicemembers.

"We owe veterans an enormous debt of gratitude, but our gratitude must be matched by tangible action by state government to improve the lives of veterans, servicemembers and military families," Mr. Cordray said in a statement. "Betty and I will fight every day in office to honor those who have served and provide them with the support they need to thrive in Ohio."

Obhof OK With Legislative Look At E-School Enrollment Rules; OSU Joins Anti-Poverty Effort; Portman Bill Targets Tech Teacher Training; Auditor Issues Bus Study...

Senate President Larry Obhof on Wednesday said setting standards for verifying e-school enrollment falls within the legislature's purview after a whistleblower's claims thrust a shuttered charter school back into the spotlight.

The chamber leader said after a nonvoting session that the body "should take a look" at how the state measures enrollment and funds such schools rather than fully deferring to ODE.

"When the legislature's able to do things or has the responsibility for doing things, it should be the legislature, not an administrative agency, that does that," he said.

The Associated Press first reported an employee of the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow told Department of Education officials last year that the school demanded workers manipulate attendance figures after the state moved to recoup \$60 million in

payments. Within hours, the former employee's claim became an issue among candidates for attorney general and auditor. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 24, 2018)

Despite backing an examination of the issue by the legislature, Sen. Obhof (R-Medina) said he does not support "micromanaging all of the fine-tuned details" of the state's enrollment-verification process.

A bill (HB 611) sponsored by Rep. Keith Faber (R-Celina) and Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) that would tie state payments to e-schools to the use of verifiable software that tracks attendance, class size and participation was introduced last week in the House.

Alliance for the American Dream: Ohio State University has received a \$1.5 grant after a philanthropic organization selected the school to participate in an effort aimed at bolstering the middle class.

Schmidt Futures, a group founded by former Alphabet Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt, announced this week it added OSU to its Alliance for the American Dream. The effort seeks to increase economic opportunities for working Americans and reduce poverty.

"We are delighted to announce that Ohio State will act as an inaugural partner in the Alliance for the American Dream," Mr. Schmidt said in a statement. "When I was in Columbus last December, I saw firsthand the energy and vibrancy of the campus and region. Columbus is a perfect place to find great, fresh ideas. We are delighted to support them as they fuel an innovation engine to help distressed communities and expand the middle class."

As part of the collaborative project, OSU will receive \$1.5 million in funding to engage business, community and government leaders in "in a robust brainstorming process," according to a news release from the school.

"As a modern land-grant university, Ohio State is committed to expanding opportunity, unlocking talent and increasing economic vitality," OSU President Michael V. Drake said in a statement. "We are absolutely thrilled to join the Alliance and to partner with individuals and communities on this important and timely endeavor. It's 'The Columbus Way' in action."

Teacher training bill: U.S. Senator Rob Portman announced the introduction of a bill aimed at establishing a grant program to support training for career and technical education teachers

"Quality CTE teachers play a key role in expanding access to high quality programs and making sure more students and parents recognize the value of a CTE education - all of which helps lead to more and better job opportunities for students," Sen. Portman said in a statement. "I'm proud to introduce this bipartisan bill to ensure that we have better prepared teachers for this generation and generations to come."

The Creating Quality Technical Educators Act would provide funding for one-year residencies at schools for potential career and technical educators.

Sen. Portman (R-Terrace Park) is co-chairman of the Career and Technical Education Caucus with Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA). The co-chairs introduced the legislation alongside Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV).

The Alliance for Excellent Education, the American Federation of Teachers and the Association for Career and Technical Education have expressed support for the measure.

Feasibility study: Belmont County school districts could save money by combining their efforts to maintain school buses, according to a study called the "first of its kind" by the state auditor's office.

The Bellaire Local School District, the Bridgeport Exempted Village School District, the Shadyside Local School District and the St. Clairsville-Richland City School District requested the state perform the study after seeing the number of bus riders decrease in recent years.

The study found the districts could operate more efficiently and save money by combining some maintenance efforts. Legislation (HB5) that took effect in 2016 gave the auditor's office the power to study the feasibility of potential efforts to share services among local governments.

"Ohio has thousands of local government entities, which has the advantage of keeping government close to the people, but the drawback is duplication of effort," State Auditor Dave Yost said in a statement. "Sharing services can keep government close to the people while reducing redundant administration, facilities and equipment. This saves money and improves efficiency for taxpayers. It also is a way to continue providing an adequate level of service even if costs rise or budgets shrink."

Space Embarks On Tour To Highlight Corruption; Cordray Launches New Ad; Yuko Gets SEIU Backing...

Zack Space announced that he is embarking on a two-day, five-city tour detailing the "corrupt culture on Capitol Square."

The state auditor hopeful in a statement cited the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow scandal and the resignation of former Speaker Cliff Rosenberger as examples of the "the pervasive culture of corruption."

"We must take state government back from the self-interested incumbents and campaign contributors who put their special interests above the needs of ordinary Ohioans," he said in a statement. "That's why I am calling for a wide-ranging criminal investigation into ECOT and for the politicians who aided and abetted this scam to

donate every cent of campaign contributions received from ECOT founder Bill Lager and his associates to charities supporting Ohio public schools."

The tour included Wednesday stops in Youngstown and Steubenville and will head to events in Dayton, Toledo and Lima on Thursday.

New Ad: Democrat Richard Cordray is up with his second television ad in his gubernatorial campaign.

In "Save," the former director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau touts his record of protecting consumers.

"As treasurer, Cordray safeguarded your tax dollars. As attorney general he recovered \$2 billion that Wall Street stole," the narrator says in the 30-second spot. "That's why President Obama chose him to be our nation's top consumer watchdog."

SEIU Backing: Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko, who faces a primary challenge from Rep. John Barnes (D-Cleveland), announced on Wednesday the Service Employees International Union District 1199 WV/KY/OH is backing his candidacy.

In announcing the endorsement Anthony Caldwell, director of public affairs, in a statement cited the Richmond Heights Democrat's three-decade career as a union organizer.

"Yuko's career as a 30-year union organizer reinforces and guides his principles to support the people of his district and determination to help those who are most vulnerable. He wants families in the 25th Senate District and across Ohio to earn fair wages, a quality public education, and access to healthcare coverage," he said.

Union Endorsement: Franklin County Recorder Danny O'Connor picked up another endorsement in his bid for the Democratic nomination in the 12th Congressional District.

The Communications Workers of America Local 4502 announced Wednesday that it is backing his candidacy. President David McCune in a statement said Mr. O'Connor will fight to protect working families.

"Danny has a passion for issues that affect hard working men and women such as creating economic opportunity and jobs for Ohio, improving our education system, and safeguarding our voting rights and the commitment to work for families," he said.

Farm Bill: The Ohio Farmers Union announced Wednesday its opposition to the U.S. House's version of the farm bill.

President Joe Logan said the proposal "turned a blind eye toward the urgent needs of farmers for a strong safety net" and "to the nutrition needs of America's least fortunate in both rural and urban communities."

"The Congress and administration have clearly demonstrated a willingness to explode the federal budget deficit by giving a \$1.5 trillion tax cut to wealthy corporations and individuals," he added. "When rural America asks for a far more modest budget request, they can't manage to find a way to lend a hand."

BWC Rebate: In the wake of the Bureau of Workers' Compensation's announcement that it is issuing an employer premium rebate to the tune of \$1.5 billion, the Ohio Association of Justice is questioning a challenge to an appellate court ruling that found some "scheduled loss awards" should be paid in lump sums.

BWC was paying those awards to workers who suffer amputations or loss of use due to industrial injuries on a biweekly basis.

"It is time to ask, when did the Ohio workers' compensation system stop being about injured workers?" John Van Doorn, government affairs director, said in a release. "We are all in favor of job creation in this state, but let's share some of the BWC's financial surplus with the injured workers who the system was constitutionally created to protect."

Advocate Seeks KY Seat: Longtime Ohio Statehouse fixture Col Owens is looking to enter the other side of the legislative political realm - just in another state.

Mr. Owens, who served for 30 years as senior attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio and was involved in Advocates for Ohio's Future and other groups backing health and human services funding, is running as a Democrat in Kentucky's 69th House District.

The lifelong Kentucky resident's candidacy is the subject of a fundraiser next month at the home of former Ohio Rep. Ted Celeste and wife Bobbie, 1230 Oakland Ave. in Grandview Heights.

Those interested in attending or seeking more information on the event, set for 5:30-7 p.m. May 10, should RSVP to Cathy Levine at cathyjlevine@gmail.com or 614-313-7478.

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For questions about Gongwer bill tracking services, contact Gongwer at gongwer@gongwer-oh.com or 614.221.1992.

Governor's Appointments

Columbus State Community College Board of Trustees: Rick Ritzler of Galena (Delaware Co.) has been appointed to the for a term beginning April 25, 2018, and ending August 31, 2023.

Waterways Safety Council: Amy Dingle of Dayton (Montgomery Co.) has been appointed to the for a term beginning April 25, 2018, and ending January 30, 2021.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Friday, April 27

STEM Designation Committee, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, May 9

Veterinary Medical Licensing Board, Rm. 1914, 77 S. High St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

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Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Tom Gallick, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Daily Activity Planner for Thursday, April 26

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

BWC Board of Directors, 30 W. Spring St., Room 3 on Level 2, Columbus, 8 a.m.
Facilities Construction Commission, Rm. 121, Statehouse, Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Deadline to file pre-primary campaign finance reports

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Vernon's Italian Ristorante, 720 Youngstown-Warren Road, Niles, 5 p.m., (Event Sponsor \$1500, Supporter \$1000, Friend \$500, Table Sponsor \$300, Individual \$60 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes)

Rep. Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) fundraiser, Berry's Restaurant, 15 W. Main Street, Norwalk, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$250 to Nathan Manning for Ohio)

Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) fundraiser, Aloft Columbus Westerville, 32 Heatherdown Drive, Westerville, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$250 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)

Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) fundraiser, The Lincoln Caf^e, 740 E. Long St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$250, \$100, \$50, \$25 to Friends of Hearcel F. Craig)

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

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Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Tom Gallick, Staff Writers

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From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Wednesday, May 2, 2018 8:29 AM
To: DL_Gongwer
Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Wednesday, May 2



NEWS

Officials find flaw with medical marijuana grower scoring (Associated Press, 5/2/2018)

Ohio governor to announce chronic pain prescriber standards (Associated Press, 5/2/2018)

Ohio's top court to hear arguments on promotions tax dispute (Associated Press, 5/2/2018)

Here are all 403 personalized license plates Ohio rejected in the past year (Cincinnati Enquirer, 5/2/2018)

Who's who in the 'toss-up' race for Congress (Cincinnati Enquirer, 5/2/2018)

As Richard Cordray campaigns for Ohio governor, the federal agency he headed is in trial in Cleveland (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/2/2018)

Conservative Buckeye Institute says bail reform in Ohio would save money (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/2/2018)

Dennis Kucinich says the bulk of his consulting fees came from anti-G.M.O. group (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/2/2018)

Kane launches second ad of GOP primary for Tiberi's old seat (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)

Kucinich: I got \$122,000 as consultant for sustainable food group (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)

Mike DeWine stresses conservative credentials in new TV ad (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)

Ohio asks feds for OK to impose Medicaid work requirements (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)

Trump accuser getting donations from across US for Ohio race (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)

Trump accuser getting donations from across US for Ohio race (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)

Ohio may ban free international travel for lawmakers (Dayton Daily News, 5/2/2018)

Report: Bail reforms could save Ohio taxpayers \$67 million a year (Dayton Daily News, 5/2/2018)

Sexual assault legal loophole prevents victim military transfers, lawmaker says (Dayton Daily News, 5/2/2018)

Algal blooms harder to control because of climate change, other factors, data shows (Toledo Blade, 5/2/2018)

Commissioners, state representative advocate for regulation of payday loans (Toledo Blade, 5/2/2018)

Groups explore extent of ECOT 'hush money' (Toledo Blade, 5/2/2018)

EDITORIALS

Beacon Journal/Ohio.com editorial board: Being mean to the poor in public housing (Akron Beacon Journal, 5/2/2018)

Dimitri McDaniel in the Democratic primary for Ohio House 12: endorsement editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/2/2018)

Rick Raley in the Democratic primary for Ohio House 14: endorsement editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/2/2018)

Editorial: Clarify regulations to finally banish ECOT demons (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)

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From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Wednesday, May 2, 2018 8:54 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 5/2/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

5/2/2018



OHIO'S TOP COURT TO HEAR ARGUMENTS ON PROMOTIONS TAX DISPUTE

The Ohio Supreme Court has set a date for arguments in a dispute over promotions offered by the Cincinnati Reds to ticket buyers including bobbleheads and other items.

OHIO GOVERNOR TO ANNOUNCE CHRONIC PAIN PRESCRIBER STANDARDS

Ohio Gov. John Kasich is preparing to announce new standards to help people suffering from chronic pain get proper treatment from prescribers to avoid addiction.



KUCINICH SAYS HE GOT \$120K AS CONSULTANT FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD GROUP

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Dennis Kucinich received \$122,000 in consulting fees in 2016 from a group that works for food sustainability and safety, his campaign said Tuesday.

TRUMP ACCUSER GETTING DONATIONS FROM ACROSS US FOR OHIO RACE

The national exposure that has come with her accusations of sexual harassment against President Donald Trump has translated into an unprecedented number of individual campaign contributors for Rachel Crooks' Ohio House campaign.

MIKE DEWINE STRESSES CONSERVATIVE CREDENTIALS IN NEW TV AD

With a week until Election Day, the Republican gubernatorial campaign of Mike DeWine is airing a new TV commercial that it hopes underlines his conservative credentials — and support of President Donald Trump.

SPENDING FOR TV ADS COULD BE TROUBLE FOR ECOT IN UPCOMING AUDIT

The first report regarding ECOT's operations following allegations from an insider that the school used new tracking software to manipulate attendance data will come from the state auditor.

Dayton Daily News

www.daytondailynews.com

REPORT: BAIL REFORMS COULD SAVE OHIO TAXPAYERS \$67 MILLION A YEAR

A new report from the Buckeye Institute says Ohio could save \$67 million a year in jail costs by changing the bail system used by courts.

OHIO MAY BAN FREE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FOR LAWMAKERS

In the wake of Republican Cliff Rosenberger's abrupt resignation as Ohio House speaker, state Rep. Niraj Antani is proposing reforms to state ethics laws when it comes to gifts, meals and travel for legislators.

MAY ELECTION: BIG MONEY SPENT IN MIAMI/DARKE COUNTY STATE HOUSE

RACE

Nearly a quarter of a million dollars has been spent on the Republican primary in Ohio's 80th state House district making it one of the most expensive statehouse primary in the region.

THE PLAIN DEALER

AS RICHARD CORDRAY CAMPAIGNS FOR OHIO GOVERNOR, THE FEDERAL

AGENCY HE HEADED IS IN TRIAL IN CLEVELAND

A trial that began in U.S. District Court in Cleveland on Tuesday pits the federal agency Ohio Democratic gubernatorial candidate Richard Cordray once led against a law firm the agency accuses of conducting deceptive debt collection practices.

DENNIS KUCINICH SAYS THE BULK OF HIS CONSULTING FEES CAME FROM ANTI-G.M.O. GROUP

Former U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich's gubernatorial campaign released more details Tuesday about the roughly \$120,000 he received from consulting.

RICK RALEY IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY FOR OHIO HOUSE 14:

ENDORSEMENT EDITORIAL

State Rep. Martin J. Sweeney is moving on from his 14th Ohio House District to run for the Ohio Senate, leaving the House seat wide open for four Democrats eager to succeed him -- including his 25-year-old daughter, Bride Rose Sweeney.

DIMITRI MCDANIEL IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY FOR OHIO HOUSE 12:

ENDORSEMENT EDITORIAL

Several strong Democratic primary candidates are seeking to replace term-limited state Rep. John Barnes Jr. in the 12th Ohio House District, which reaches from a slice of southeast Cleveland to Bedford, Bedford Heights, Highland Hills, Maple Heights, Mayfield Heights, North Randall, Orange, Pepper Pike and Warrensville Heights.

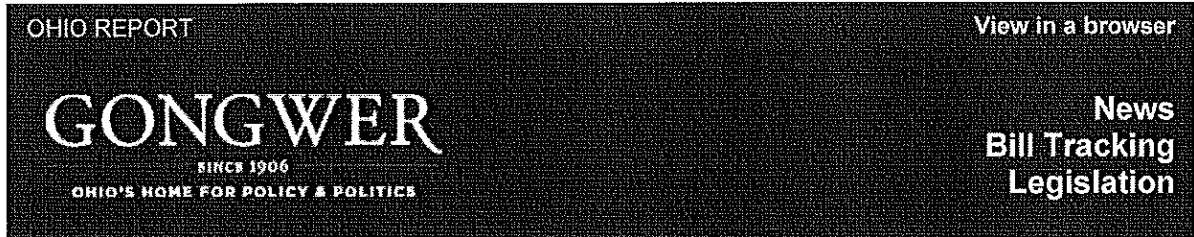
THE BLADE

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ASHFORD, FEDOR SQUARE OFF IN PRIMARY FOR OHIO SENATE SEAT

Imagine that: A hotly contested race without mudslinging.

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2018 6:42 PM
To: DL_Gongwer
Subject: Ohio Report, Thursday, May 10, 2018
Attachments: May10.htm; 180510dayplan.htm; May11Schedule.htm



OHIO REPORT THURSDAY, MAY 10

State Auditor: ECOT Officials May Have Engaged In Criminal Activity

**Democrats Seek To Anchor Republican Candidates To Online School
Faulted In Audit**

Medicaid Officials Detail Safeguards For Managed Care Expansion

**Administration Points To Improvements In Behavioral Health Redesign
Payments**

Retirement Study Council Approves 2019 Budget

**State Offers Guidance On Mental Health, Firearms; Chronic Pain Rule
Available For Comment...**

**Agency Briefs: AG Approves Petition For Legalized Pot Issue; Arts
Council Gets Nearly \$1 Million NEA Grant; Auditor; ODA; DAS**

Governor's Appointments

Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated

Supplemental Agency Calendar

CALENDARS

Day Planner

Legislative Committee Schedules

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Volume #87, Report #91 -- Thursday, May 10, 2018

State Auditor: ECOT Officials May Have Engaged In Criminal Activity

State Auditor Dave Yost on Thursday referred his office's audit of the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow for potential prosecution before blasting the Department of Education's oversight of the now-shuttered e-school and calling for stricter state laws on such entities.

The auditor's report determined that ECOT failed to provide documents proving students were using their computers for educational purposes for the hours it requested payment for during the 2016-17 school year. The audit found that although the school used tracking software known as ActivTrak to record what websites and programs students were using and how long they were using them, it did not provide all of that data to ODE.

Mr. Yost also issued findings for recovery on nearly \$250,000 that ECOT-related entities spent on political advertising as the General Assembly was considering new measures to regulate charters and ODE was looking to claw back payments made to the online school.

The audit's release kicked off another round of criticism from Democrats who accused Republican leaders of failing to oversee ECOT and prompted several Republican statewide candidates to donate money their campaigns had previously received from school leaders (*See separate story*).

Mr. Yost called information garnered from ActivTrak "the smoking gun" in his office's investigation into ECOT, which ended with him referring the findings to the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office and U.S. Attorney's Office.

"For the first time, we can prove that ECOT submitted information to ODE in order to get paid that it knew to be false when it was submitted," Mr. Yost said.

After ODE requested information on student participation at the e-school, Mr. Yost said ECOT provided "meaningless and unreliable information ...that ODE inexplicably accepted." He said department officials should have pushed for more information from the school.

"I would not have accepted the watered-down, blanked-out spreadsheets that were submitted to ODE," he said.

In a statement, Mr. Yost went further to challenge the department's handling of the e-school.

"With the level of incompetence displayed by both the school and ODE, the regulator, it's amazing that any money went to education whatsoever," he said.

ODE spokeswoman Brittany Halpin in a statement pushed back against the auditor's claim that the department mishandled its oversight of ECOT.

"No one has held ECOT more accountable for the education of students than the Department of Education, and our work to return approximately \$80 million to Ohio's taxpayers continues," she said.

Ms. Halpin said department officials "repeatedly questioned and subsequently rejected portions of ECOT's data."

ECOT closed in January after the State Board of Education voted the previous summer to claw back \$60 million from the school after an audit found it over-reported its full-time enrollment for the 2015-16 school year. The panel earlier this year tacked on another \$19 million to the school's debt, claiming it again overstated enrollment for 2016-17. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 12, 2018)

The e-school has filed two appeals with the Ohio Supreme Court, claiming ODE and the State Board of Education acted improperly in the lead-up to its closure. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 16, 2018)

Along with a referral for possible prosecution, the auditor's office issued a finding for recovery of \$249,962. The amount reflects an invoice submitted to ECOT in 2017 for a political ad buy that eventually was paid by Third Wave Communications, according to the auditor's report.

Mr. Yost said Third Wave Communications shares common ownership with other ECOT-linked businesses, leading auditor's investigators to conclude it paid the invoice in order to disguise ECOT's role in purchasing the advertising, which targeted the ODE and state lawmakers.

Karl Schneider, an attorney representing Third Wave Communications, said in a statement the finding for recovery was "meritless" and the result of a political frenzy around ECOT. He said Third Wave plans to challenge the finding.

"Mile-wide, inch-deep investigations have a tendency to lead to unsubstantiated conclusions that generally fail when tested with evidence in the court system, which is the case here," he said.

The auditor said ECOT officials also declined in April to sign a routine letter stating they provided all information necessary for the completion of the audit and that they had informed auditor's investigators of any possible fraud or illegal actions.

Auditor Yost said he anticipates his office will offer legislative recommendations based on the audit of ECOT, which likely will focus on preventing conflicts of interest and

promoting transparency among e-schools and the companies that manage them. He said the legislature also should look into whether funding such schools based on the time their students spent in class makes sense.

"Online learning needs to go to a learning-based, or achievement-based funding mechanism," he said.

Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said Thursday afternoon he is proud of legislation passed in 2015 (HB 288) that overhauled the state's accountability system for charter schools, which he said is working. He said he had not read the auditor's report, but would be open to recommendations from Mr. Yost.

"I'd be happy to sit down with him and talk about that," Mr. Obhof said.

A message seeking comment from ECOT's attorney was not returned prior to deadline.

Democrats Seek To Anchor Republican Candidates To Online School Faulted In Audit

On the day Auditor Dave Yost announced he was referring his audit of the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow's finances to prosecutors, Democrats made hay out of Republicans' ties to the defunct e-school.

Former federal prosecutor Steve Dettelbach, Mr. Yost's Democratic opponent for the office of attorney general, in a series of tweets Thursday again called on Yost to recuse himself from ECOT-related matters and questioned the timeline that led up to the referral.

"Dave Yost's excuses for why he couldn't refer the case are a flat out joke. I was a federal prosecutor for 20 years. Fraud cases don't get better with age," Mr. Dettelbach wrote.

At a press conference for the release of the report, Auditor Yost defended the timing of the referral.

"The criminal referrals always happen at the conclusion or near the conclusion of our work," he said.

David Pepper, chairman of the Ohio Democratic Party, said in a statement the auditor's report jibes with Democrats' previous criticisms of charter schools.

"Finally, after years of pretending otherwise, even the Republican auditor of this state is at long last admitting that one of the central policy directions pursued by Republicans in Ohio for nearly two decades turns out to be a fraudulent scam," he said.

Pepper also accused Yost of taking contributions from ECOT, then "(handing) out awards to ECOT like candy and (ignoring) whistleblowers who came to his office."

Mr. Yost said auditor of state awards are "given under objective criteria," adding ECOT received its awards before the Department of Education imposed standards requiring e-schools to provide data on how long their students spent in class.

"The auditor of state's award has nothing to do with how well you're run," he said. "It has specifically and only to do with whether you meet these criteria, and if you meet them, you automatically get the award."

The auditor also denied accusations his office ignored the claims of a whistleblower who went to ODE and the auditor's office last year alleging the school ordered employees to manipulate enrollment data. Mr. Yost said auditor's officials spoke with him twice and reviewed documents he provided to investigators.

"(The whistleblower's) knowledge was insufficient to base a criminal referral (on) at that time," Mr. Yost said, adding that the auditor's office was "already aware of virtually everything that he said" and working on an audit program to review the school.

The Yost campaign also announced it is donating \$29,395 to charity to offset contributions made by people with ties to ECOT to Mr. Yost's state auditor campaign and transition committee in response to the referral for prosecution.

Allison Dumski, spokeswoman for the campaign of Republican auditor candidate Rep. Keith Faber (R-Celina), said in a statement the campaign is donating \$36,513 to "high quality charter schools" to offset donations from ECOT founder Bill Lager to Faber's prior campaigns.

"As made evident by Auditor Yost's report today, ECOT abused the state's public trust, deceived parents, and most importantly, hurt the thousands of students who sought a quality education," Rep. Faber said in a statement. "Thanks to the strong charter school reforms put in place while I was Senate president and the diligent work of Auditor Yost and his staff, ECOT was caught and is out of business."

Mr. Faber's democratic opponent in the auditor's race, former Congressman Zack Space, called for politicians who took contributions from ECOT or related individuals to give them back in a Thursday-morning tweet.

"Finally, a long overdue referral for prosecution, after YEARS of scamming our tax dollars. Many questions remain, but the biggest: what role did political contributions have in creating or perpetuating this scam? Pals who took ECOT \$ should return it," he wrote.

Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) in a statement said the auditor's announcement was a case of "better late than never."

"However, I am concerned that the auditor avoided acknowledging his own failures to hold ECOT accountable in the past," he said. "The auditor is well aware that the Ohio Department of Education had the power to ask for detailed student attendance data before 2014. That means the data should have existed and Auditor Yost could have asked for it."

Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) in a statement called for a bipartisan reform effort in regards to e-schools. He said the legislature could start by considering a measure (SB 39) introduced by Sen. Schiavoni in February.

"It is within the legislature's mandate to create a more efficient and effective education system so that Ohio's children have the opportunity to thrive," he said. "Members of the General Assembly have a moral obligation to work together toward bipartisan e-school reform."

Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) and Rep. Tavia Galonski (D-Akron) sent a letter to Mr. DeWine requesting the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate the e-school.

"Taxpayers, students and their families deserve to know the truth about the extent of ECOT officials' criminal activity to defraud the state out of tens of millions of dollars," the letter stated.

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Rich Cordray used the release of the audit as an opportunity to tie his Republican opponent, Attorney General Mike DeWine, to the e-school.

"This is just the latest attempt by Republicans in the Statehouse to whitewash their ECOT scandal," Mr. Cordray said in a statement. "They willfully looked the other way as a billion of our taxpayer dollars went to a politically-connected for-profit charter school instead of to educating Ohio students. In exchange for enabling their scam, Mike DeWine and Jon Husted raked in tens of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions, while our state, taxpayers and children were being defrauded and mistreated."

Joshua Eck, a spokesman for the DeWine/Husted campaign, said in a statement the auditor's report actually shows Republicans are providing oversight of charter schools.

"Mike DeWine and Jon Husted believe that every dollar we invest in education needs only one priority: Helping our kids get off to a great start in life," he said. "Anyone who tries to manipulate that system should be held to account. It's a shame Richard Cordray doesn't understand how Republicans are already imposing that accountability."

Medicaid Officials Detail Safeguards For Managed Care Expansion

Managed care plans and the Ohio Department of Medicaid said Thursday they're ready for the scheduled July 1 carve-in of behavioral health services, although the agency said it has contingency plans in place to alleviate potential problems.

One point of concern for the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee was one plan's recent struggles meeting the state's prompt pay standards, problems that plans said were not tied to behavioral health.

The move to managed care is the second step in the behavioral health redesign process, and administration officials also argued before JMOC that the first stage - new billing codes - is starting to turn the corner. (*See separate story*)

Although Medicaid officials said they're confident the state's managed care plans will be ready to take on behavioral health services come July, they also detailed a series of safeguards designed to mitigate any issues. (ODM Presentation)

Those protections include a six-month period after the carve-in during which Medicaid members can use any provider for services regardless of who their managed care plan is, said Patrick Stephan, ODM's director of managed care. The period was initially three months but was extended to six months to include an open enrollment period in which members can change managed care plans if they choose.

"Any provider providing services to somebody in the new system will be paid by the managed care plans, no questions asked," Mr. Stephan said.

After that period, providers and plans will still be able to work out single-case agreements if the provider isn't in a plan's network, he said.

Another safeguard is that plans will have to follow the Medicaid program's fee-for-service coverage policies and payment rates through June 30, 2019.

ODM will also develop a post-implementation task force including managed care plans, providers and groups representing providers to identify issues and address them, Mr. Stephan said.

The department will also offer a contingency plan for providers who face problems with billing, similar to a contingency plan offered during the first stage of the redesign, he said. Plans would make a monthly payment for July, August, September and October for providers serving their members equal to 54.6% of the provider's average monthly Medicaid reimbursement in 2016.

Representatives of the five managed care plans told the committee they were each prepared to handle the change in services.

"Improvements for behavioral health in Medicaid will occur July 1 due to managed care carve-in," said Buckeye Health Plan President and CEO Bruce Hill. "Buckeye and the other Medicaid plans have been working closely with our providers for months to ensure a smooth transition."

One managed care organization that JMOC members questioned extensively was CareSource, which is working with ODM to resolve failures to meet the program's prompt pay standards in the second half of 2017.

JMOC Chairman Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville) asked CareSource to provide its plan of action for resolving prompt pay issues to the committee in the next week.

CareSource Ohio President Steve Ringel said the company would comply and had experienced no problems with prompt pay in behavioral health. He told Rep. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) that the problems stemmed from having insufficient staff, and that they largely occurred in primary care. The plan has offered cash advances where there are significant issues with specific providers, he said.

Rep. Antonio asked ODM officials about the remediation process for prompt pay failures.

When the department identifies problems with a plan, it works with them to identify issues and develop a solution to bring them back into compliance, Mr. Stephan said.

Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield) questioned why it has taken several months for ODM to act on CareSource's issues.

"To me, eight months is a long time, so I would encourage the department to potentially move these triggers up, so we're not six, seven, eight months down the road when we're finally acting in a manner that facilitates change," he said.

Mr. Stephan said both the plan and ODM have taken the issue seriously and are working on solutions. He also said they have considered changing the requirements, which currently mandate plans pay 90% of claims within 30 days and 99% within 90 days.

"Through the balance of this process, it is a topic that we are looking into," he said.

Administration Points To Improvements In Behavioral Health Redesign Payments

State Medicaid officials argued Thursday that the first step in the behavioral health redesign process, a move to new billing codes, is beginning to stabilize after some initial uncertainty.

The administration used data covering the first three months of the year to tell members of the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee that billing problems are being resolved and that the new system is, in many cases, paying providers more quickly and efficiently than before.

The comments come in response to a survey released last month by the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Service Providers that found many members were receiving

significantly less in overall payments from Medicaid. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 19, 2018)

Greg Moody, director of the Governor's Office of Health Transformation, said that survey, which covered 80% of the council's members, represents about a quarter of providers affected by the behavioral health redesign. (ODM Presentation)

While payments for claims in February were down 20% compared to the previous February, those numbers in January and March were close to the same, with total payments in the first quarter of 2018 down about 7% compared to the same period in 2017, Director Moody said.

When looking at denial rates of claims, Mr. Moody said the 18% denial rate in March was down compared to 28% seen in January, showing providers are working out problems with the new system.

That rate, above the typical denial rate of about 11%, also is inflated because the new coding system is disqualifying claims that previously might otherwise have been paid by Medicaid, including claims that should be paid by other payers, he said. When those claims are eliminated, the denial rate drops to 11% in March and 15% for the first quarter overall, he said.

Many of the denials - about 41% - are coming from 26 providers, which account for 6% of the total number, he said. When they are removed, the denial rate for March drops to 5%. Mr. Moody also pointed out that hospitals, which have more experience with the code sets and the system, experienced a denial rate of 1% for the quarter.

"Many of the early concerns with redesign are being addressed as we look at actual system performance," he said.

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) cited a drop in total behavioral health spending in April, which was not included in Mr. Moody's presentation.

April's spending is affected by a one-week payment delay for the month for all providers in the Medicaid program to keep the program's budget balanced, Mr. Moody said.

"A significant portion of the reduction in April is unrelated to redesign, it's related to a one-week delay in payment," he said.

The council's survey was conducted "at the point of maximum consternation" with the new process, Mr. Moody said.

"Everything in the council survey are things that we flagged to monitor and track because they could be signals of something going wrong," he said.

Sen. Coley said the fact that overall spending in behavioral health remains below last year's total continues to raise red flags.

"From a budgeting standpoint, their concerns are not as overblown as we thought," he said.

Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) asked how much providers are being told about why a certain claim was denied.

"What does that look like moving forward so these folks can actually get what they need and we can actually find out whether this is why they're losing that funding?" she asked.

Medicaid Director Barbara Sears said providers are given codes explaining why a claim was denied, and that with larger denials, the department will reach out to providers to explain.

"I can't have my folks explaining how to bill Medicare or a third party, but what I can tell you is that now that we have moved to a national code set, it's easier for them to bill those services," she said.

The administration's comments didn't quell the Ohio Council's concerns about the plan to move ahead with the next step of the behavioral health redesign. CEO Lori Criss also pointed to prompt payment issues with one managed care plans as raising questions about the planned July 1 managed care carve-in. *(See separate story)*

"Today's discussion at JMOC reinforced that the state, managed care plans, and providers are not yet showing full signs of readiness for a July 1 move to managed care, especially with fewer than 8% of providers shown as being in a position to serve the same capacity that they served last year at this time," she said in an email.

"It's stunning to think that the administration can declare readiness when at the same time revealing that the Ohio Department of Medicaid has known for months but not shared that CareSource, which covers over 50% of Ohioans on Medicaid Managed Care, has violated their timely payment requirements."

Prompted by the council's survey, one Democratic lawmaker also announced Thursday that he would ask ODM to delay the planned carve-in by six months.

"Logistical issues during the rollout of the redesign plan have wreaked havoc on our healthcare providers, threatening care and forcing many to eliminate staff and essential services," Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton) said in a statement. "This is especially troublesome at a time when we continue to battle our worst-in-the-nation opioid crisis. Extending Phase I by six months will allow us to iron out the issues and refocus our efforts on what truly matters-delivering quality, affordable healthcare to Ohio families."

Retirement Study Council Approves 2019 Budget

The Ohio Retirement Study Council will see a slight spending increase under a budget approved by members Thursday.

The panel signed off on the \$781,800 budget request with little discussion after council Director Bethany Rhodes walked members through an overview. The annual increase is just above 1%, or \$8,450. The council receives no legislative appropriations and is funded through the plans' investment earnings.

The School Employees Retirement and the State Teachers Retirement systems also presented current drafts of their own budget proposals. Rising insurance costs, additional staff training expenses and increasing bank fees appear to be the common themes. (Committee Documents)

Rep. Rick Carfagna (R-Westerville) applauded the ORSC's budget for zeroing out a line item previously put aside for communication products like phones and internet.

Ms. Rhodes explained that because the council relocated to a state office building, it no longer needs to rely on a private vendor for those services. She said, however, that the line item would remain in the budget in case the council should relocate at some point in the future.

Ms. Rhodes said she was also successful in following through on members' prior instructions to attempt to extend the contract of the council's two actuaries - PTA/KMS and RVK - which were to expire in August. She said both agreed to extend the contracts another five years at the current rate.

Other systems: Representatives of the School Employees Retirement System and State Teachers Retirement System shared their own budget projections with the council, although SERS CFO Tracy Valentino said that system's proposal is still a work in progress and will likely be lower when it returns for council consideration.

SERS' proposed operating budget increased 4.3% over the current year, partly attributable to a 4.7% increase in personnel costs and a 5.5% increase in health insurance. All told, the total budget clocks in at just more than \$34 million - up from \$32.9 million the year prior.

Member Thomas Pascarella questioned Ms. Valentino on the increase in banking fees the system has seen. She replied that as the assets grow, so too do the custodial and related fees.

STRS CFO Paul Snyder said the system is eyeing a 2.2% increase - up from \$99.9 million to \$102 million - for its 2019 budget. He said the system has trimmed six full-time equivalent positions thanks to online efficiencies and teacher retirements - a fact Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) praised.

Recommendations: Senior Research Associate Jeff Bernard outlined staff's recommendation to remove a provision in the Ohio Revised Code requiring Highway Patrol Retirement System to conduct an annual adequacy contribution rate report.

Those reports, Mr. Bernard suggested, are duplicative and costly. The council, he noted, would still have the ability to request such a report if the change were adopted. System Executive Director Mark Atkeson said he supports the proposal.

Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) said the issue will be discussed at the group's next meeting along with whether similar requirements for other systems should likewise be eliminated.

The council also voted to recommend lawmakers modify maximum statutory penalties for systems failing to transmit either employee or employer contributions.

State Offers Guidance On Mental Health, Firearms; Chronic Pain Rule Available For Comment...

The Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services issued guidance this week to help mental health practitioners with questions surrounding mental illness and firearms.

The memo comes as the debate over firearms and particularly mass shootings continues at the state and federal level.

ODMHAS Medical Director Dr. Mark Hurst wrote to providers that the discussion demonstrates the important role they play in the conversation and in the prevention of violence.

Statistics show a relatively small number of violent acts directed toward others are committed by people with mental illness, and that people with mental illness are much more likely to use firearms to take their own lives, he wrote.

"When individuals with certain mental illnesses are actively experiencing symptoms, they may be impulsive, misperceive reality and have impaired judgment. If firearms are available, the risk to themselves and others increases markedly," he wrote.

"Health care providers have no duty more important than to maintain the wellness and safety of patients, families and the communities where they reside. This duty is accomplished by providing effective treatment for psychiatric disorders and substance use problems, as well as remembering our duty to address the risk that exists from access to firearms for those under mental health treatment."

Dr. Hurst recommended patients and their families be advised of the risks posed by firearm access, and the importance of mitigating them. He also stressed the importance of ensuring relevant documents are submitted to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation in the case of an involuntary commitment.

"While our clinical interventions alone will not eliminate all firearm-related injuries and deaths, they most certainly eliminate some of them," he wrote. "Even one life saved is worth it."

Chronic Pain Rules: The Ohio State Dental Board posted draft rules of proposed new regulations on the prescribing of opioid medications for chronic and subacute pain.

The proposed rules were announced last week by Gov. John Kasich and medical professional boards. They create a framework of checkpoints for prescribers when authorizing progressively stronger doses of opioid pain relievers. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 2, 2018)

Comments on the rules can be sent to the dental board via email with the rule number in the subject line, and with the Common Sense Initiative copied on the email. Comments will be accepted through Friday, May 18.

The board also expects to hold a public hearing on the rule in July.

Medicaid Waivers: A report by Policy Matters Ohio questioned research cited by federal health care regulators in supporting Medicaid waivers imposing work requirements on certain members.

PMO claimed the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services misstated or misinterpreted the findings of various academic studies in justifying a move toward additional work requirements for Medicaid members.

"Medicaid's mission is to improve the health of Americans struggling to make ends meet," Wendy Patton, PMO senior project director, said in a statement. "Good health is a precondition for work, not a reward for it. Nothing in academic literature justifies CMS's plan. In fact, in many cases, the research shows why this policy is flawed."

Agency Briefs: AG Approves Petition For Legalized Pot Issue; Arts Council Gets Nearly \$1 Million NEA Grant; Auditor; ODA; DAS

A resubmitted petition summary for a ballot issue to legalize marijuana in Ohio was approved Thursday by Attorney General Mike DeWine.

Backers of the proposed constitutional amendment, titled "Marijuana Rights and Regulations," will be cleared to begin collecting signatures after the Ohio Ballot Board determines whether the language requires a single or multiple issues.

Mr. DeWine's office determined that, unlike the committee's first attempt, the new petition summary represented "a fair and truthful statement of the proposed law."

Under the proposed amendment, which also prescribes how governments can restrict the use of marijuana in ways similar to alcohol-related laws, a new Ohio Constitution section would "endow the Rights of persons in Ohio age 21 and older to possess, cultivate, process, use, transport, sell, purchase and share marijuana in Ohio...."

Ohio Arts Council: For the ninth consecutive year, OAC is celebrating the award of the second-largest partnership agreement grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The \$995,800 received to help support arts initiatives throughout the state tops the amount granted to larger states such as Texas, Florida, New York, Illinois and Pennsylvania, OAC reported. (Details)

"Ohio has a long tradition of securing nearly \$1 million annually through the State and Regional Partnership Agreement program from the National Endowment for the Arts. We are proud to receive the largest award in the Midwest and the second largest award in the nation, OAC Executive Director Donna S. Collins said in a statement.

"Every dollar we earn from the NEA is invested in the arts statewide through our grantees. The federal investment in the arts in Ohio is important, not just the Ohio Arts Council grant award, but the 16 grants given this cycle in a variety of categories to arts organizations across Ohio."

State Auditor: Dave Yost has placed the Village of Bridgeport in Belmont County on the state's "unauditable" list due to a lack of documentation.

"During the course of the regular financial audit of the Village of Bridgeport for the period Jan. 1, 2016, through Dec. 31, 2017, the Auditor of State's office determined that the condition of the village's financial records was not adequate to complete the audit," his office reported. In a letter to the village, the Auditor's office provided a list of information required to complete the audit.

"Complete financial records shine a light on local governments," Auditor Yost said in a release. "Taxpayers should not be left in the dark on how their dollars are being spent."

The village has 90 days to respond to the letter by revising its financial records and providing the required data. Failure to do so could result in legal action.

In a separate release, Mr. Yost announced that Nicholas Szabo, the former city auditor of London in Madison County, pleaded guilty to theft in office "for his failure to reimburse the city for his health insurance costs and for an unauthorized pay increase for a fellow employee."

Mr. Szabo resigned in December. The auditor said he will be sentenced on the fourth-degree felony violation on June 7.

Mr. Yost also announced this week that a special audit of Mt. Sterling was recognized by the National State Auditors Association with an Excellence in Accountability Award.

"The award recognizes the office's work in uncovering extensive corruption and almost \$1 million in illegal spending at the small Madison County village," his office reported. "The special audit was instrumental in securing the convictions of four administrators

and employees, including former Mayor Charles Neff and former Village Administrator Joseph Johnson."

"The exemplary professionals of my office continually get results - and justice - for Ohio's taxpayers," Auditor Yost said. "This recognition from their peers is evidence of the first-rate work rooted in every audit and investigation they perform."

Department of Agriculture: The agency reported Thursday that an invasive species of hemlock-killing insects had been discovered in Adams County.

The hemlock woolly adelgid, an aphid-like Asian insect first reported in the U.S. in 1951, has devastated the trees in areas along the Appalachian Mountains and has been detected in 20 states.

The infestation in Adams County was discovered through the survey work being conducted by the ODNR Division of Forestry in Shawnee State Forest. The bugs were first detected in a forested setting in Ohio in Meigs County in 2012, the agency reported.

"At this time, ODA will move to expand its hemlock quarantine, enforced by ODA's Plant Health division, to include Adams County," ODA reported. "Ohio quarantine regulations restrict the movement of hemlock materials from areas known to be infested with HWA into non-infested Ohio counties. Ohio's quarantine law also requires hemlock materials to be inspected and officially certified before being shipped, verifying that the plant material is free of HWA when entering Ohio."

The agency separately announced that aerial treatments designed to control the gypsy moth population would begin soon in 54 acres in Franklin County. The treatments are administered using a low-flying aircraft and will likely take place during early morning hours, ODA said.

The department said it will use Foray (Btk), a naturally occurring bacterium found in the soil that interferes with the caterpillars' feeding cycles, adding that the substance is not toxic to humans, pets, birds or fish.

Administrative Services: The state will hold next miscellaneous surplus property auction on Saturday at the DAS General Services Division headquarters, 4200 Surface Rd. in Columbus.

Scaffolding and a Delta RS-15 shaper are among the unique items being sold at the auction, which also features "a wide variety of computer equipment (e.g., laptops, monitors and printers) and electronic appliances (e.g., copiers, digital cameras, DVD players, audio and video equipment and mobile radios).

Doors open at 8 a.m. and the auction begins at 9 a.m. More details are available on the DAS website.

Governor's Appointments

State Dental Board: Andrew W. Zucker, DDS of Sandusky for a term beginning May 10, 2018, and ending April 6, 2022 and Canise Y. Bean, DMD, MPH of Columbus and Faisal A. Quereshy, MD, DDS of Richfield for terms beginning May 10, 2018, and ending April 6, 2022.

University of Akron Board of Trustees: Cindy P. Crotty of Cleveland Heights has been appointed to the for a term beginning May 10, 2018, and ending July 1, 2026.

Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated

Gongwer's Statehouse Job Market has been updated. The update is available on the Gongwer website.

Subscribers interested in posting job openings on Gongwer's employment board can send job descriptions and other information to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Monday, May 14

State Board of Education, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 15

State Board of Education, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, May 16

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 17

Aerospace & Aviation Technology Committee, Rm. 017, Statehouse, Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

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Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Daily Activity Planner for Friday, May 11

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

Small Government Capital Improvements Commission, OWDA offices, 480 S. High St., Columbus, 10:30 a.m.

Event Planner

YMCA Youth & Government Model United Nations, Statehouse, Columbus

17 S. High St., Suite 630

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Legislative Committee Schedules beginning 5/11/2018

Monday, May 14

Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (Committee Record) (Chr. Uecker, J., 644-6030), Senate Finance Hearing Rm., 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 15

Senate Insurance & Financial Institutions (Committee Record) (Chr. Hottinger, J., 466-5838), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:30 a.m.

- SB 275** **NURSE ANESTHETISTS** (Burke, D.) Regarding the authority of certified registered nurse anesthetists to administer drugs in addition to anesthesia and to select and order certain other drugs. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 247** **PERS HEALTH CARE** (Dolan, M.) To require the Public Employees Retirement System to permit certain spouses of retired or deceased members to continue receiving allowances to pay for health care expenses under the System's group health care plans. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 263** **NOTARY PUBLIC** (Huffman, M., Wilson, S.) To enact the Notary Public Modernization Act. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- SB 265** **PHARMACY SERVICES** (Dolan, M.) To permit certain health insurers to provide payment or reimbursement for services lawfully provided by a pharmacist and to recognize pharmacist services in certain other laws. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- SB 273** **RATING AGENCIES** (Hackett, B.) To enact for the Revised Code a definition of the term "rating agency." (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m.
- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of John Adams, CFA, Ohio Higher Educational Facility Commission; Rachel Bankowitz and Donald Brogan, RA, Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board; Charles Bills, Owens State Community College Board of Trustees; Thomas Carroll, Housing Trust Fund Advisory Committee; Rachel Cummings, Southern State Community College Board of Trustees; Matthew Davis, Ohio Business Gateway Steering Committee; Terrence Fergus, Cleveland State University Board of Trustees; Charles George, Youngstown State University Board of Trustees; Matthew Kirby, CFP, Ohio Tuition Trust Authority; Gary Lindgren and David Scholl, Third Frontier Commission; Austin McClain, Ohio University Board of Trustees; Jill Neff and Joshua Smith, Rio Grande Community College Board of Trustees and Rick Ritzler, Columbus State Community College Board of Trustees
- SB 296** **LAW ENFORCEMENT BENEFITS** (LaRose, F., Hottinger, J.) To revise the payments that surviving family members receive from the Ohio Public Safety Officers Death Benefit Fund and to permit surviving spouses and children to participate in the health, dental, and vision benefits offered to state employees as if the survivors were employees of this state. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 318** **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS** (Patterson, J., LaTourette, S.) To define the necessary qualifications and responsibilities of school resource officers, to require the